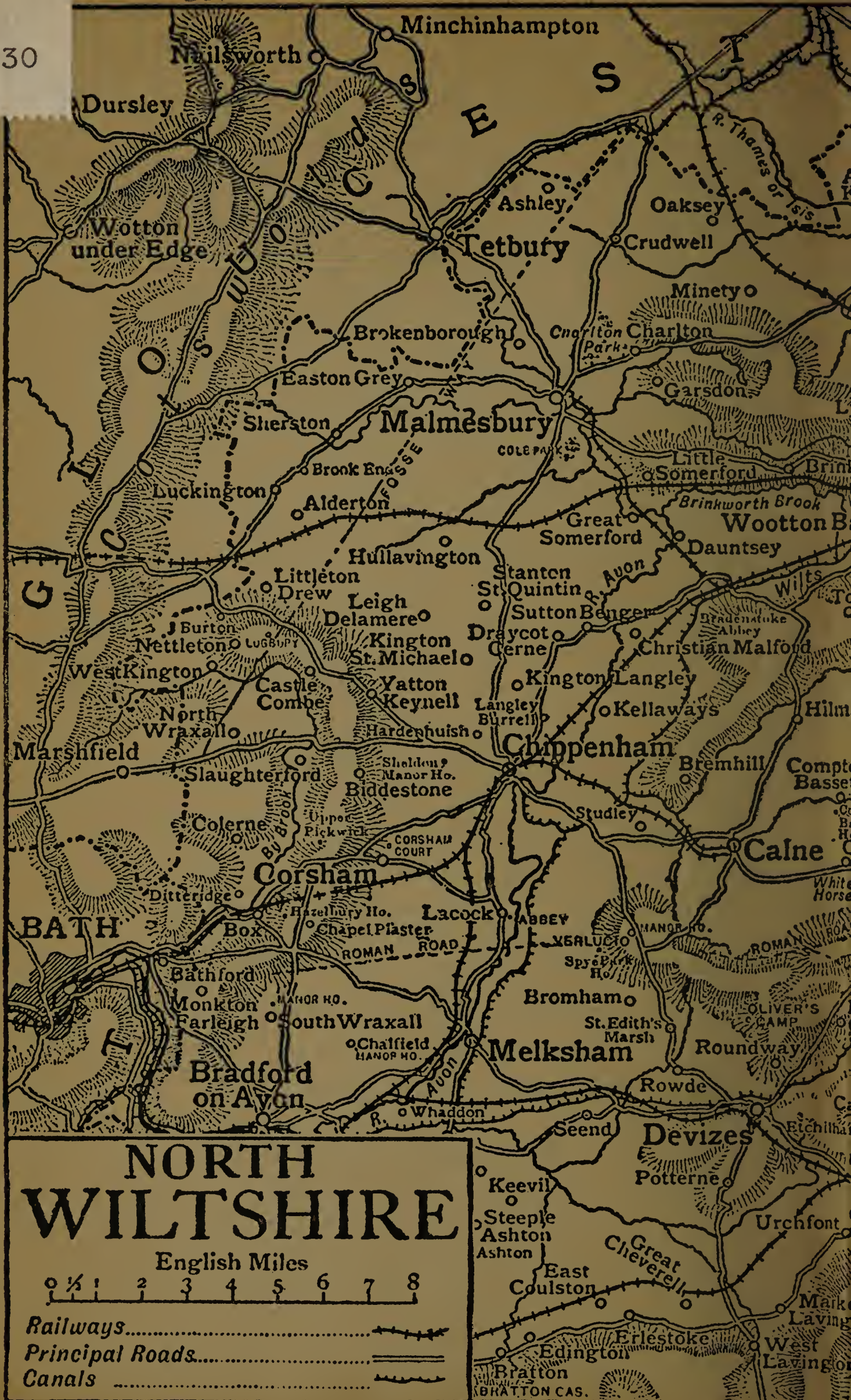


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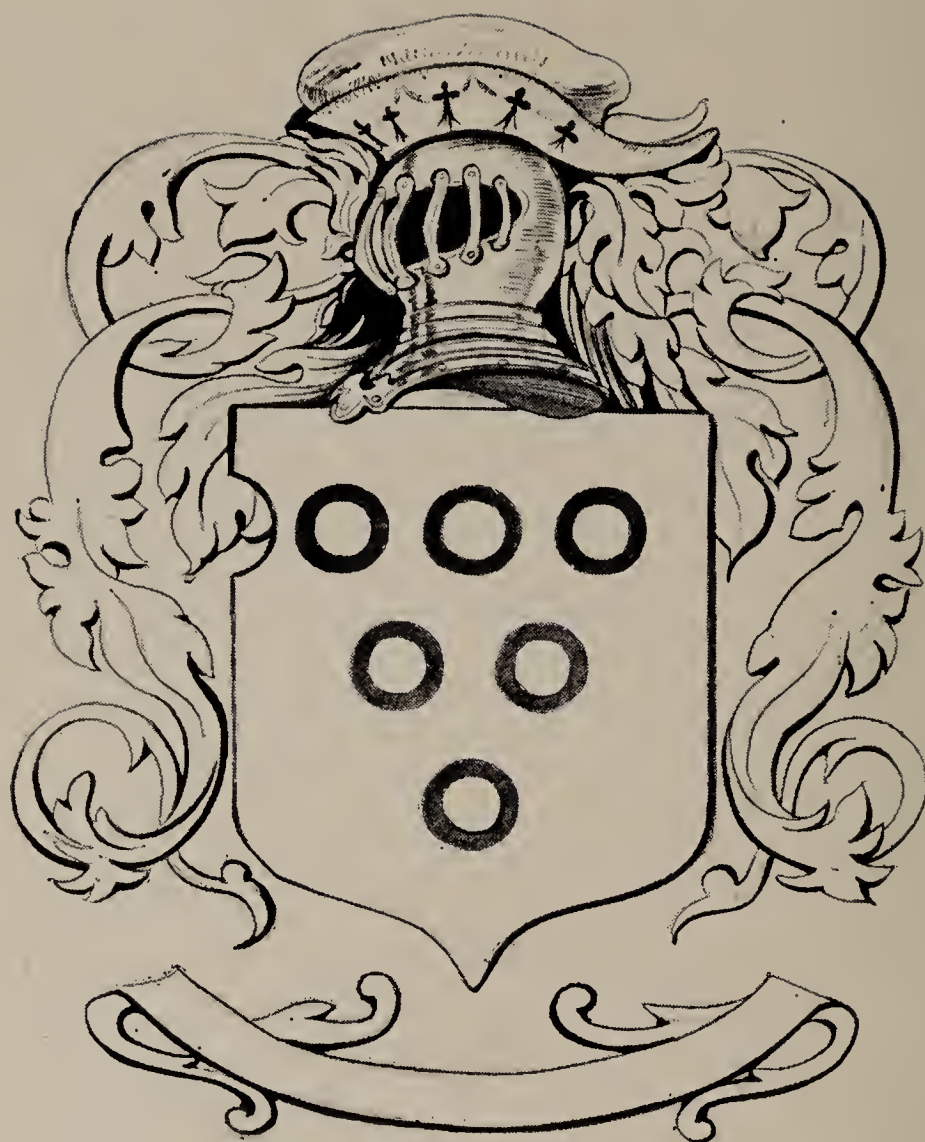


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THE PLAISTED FAMILY
OF NORTH WILTS



THE FAMILY ARMS

Individual armorial bearings were personal decorations adopted by kings and nobles, and afterwards retained as hereditary marks of distinction by which they could be easily recognised when their features were concealed by their helmets. The earliest charges, which date from the reign of Henry III (1216–72), were simple figures : and as such Arms are the most ancient, they are generally considered the most honourable.

The Arms of John of Poitou (1195–1263), Baron du Plessis and 9th Earl of Warwick, were : On a ground argent (silver) six annulets gules (red)—three, two and one. These bearings appeared on the shortened surcoat or cyclas worn over the armour (see page 12), and are here reproduced on the shield. The annulet is a small ring familiar in decorative work.

Above the shield is depicted in profile the helmet of a Baron, of silver garnished with gold, guarded with ten steel bars, half of them being visible : surmounted by a Cap of Maintenance, which was the emblem of nobility until it was superseded by the Coronet in the reign of Charles the Second.

Subsequent developments of heraldry brought into use many strange devices and a multitude of variations, until in later centuries tinctures and charges, knots and badges, with marks of cadency or difference, entirely changed the primitive simplicity of armorial bearings into a mystery of elaborate symbolism.

THE PLAISTED FAMILY^c OF NORTH WILTS

*With some Account of the Branches
of Berks, Bucks, Somerset,
and Sussex*

By
ARTHUR H. PLAISTED

THE WESTMINSTER PUBLISHING CO.,
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1939

FOR
PAMELA, PETER, AND MICHAEL
WITH OTHER
YOUNGER MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY
IN
ENGLAND AND OVERSEAS

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INTRODUCTION

THE differences existing between human beings are ascribed by Professor J. B. S. Haldane to four sources, and of these the principal is ancestry, by which people resemble their parents. Next in order is segregation, or congenital distinctions between those of the same ancestry, causing children to repeat remote features of former generations. The third arises from environment, including influences that come from education, divine grace, health, and general condition in life. The fourth is freedom of the will, and other elements not apparently determined by the past, yet even some of these can reflect the forgotten strains of unrecorded years. Social pressure with the power of praise and blame may modify the expression of undesirable features, but the natural heart of man hovers around the instincts of heredity.

We need not, then, be affected with any pride of ancestry in order to cherish a lively desire for knowing and recording the origin and development of our family. Even if we can lay claim to no hereditary honours, we find our instincts explained by the contemplation of our descent, and while we seem to have lived in the persons of our forefathers, we also express in ourselves much of the spirit which governed their outlook. The knowledge of our family from a remote period helps to interpret the secrets of our hearts, makes us wise in the knowledge of our dispositions, and can be a useful corrective to vain imaginations.

But while the study of ancestry is an engrossing occupation, the recording of its vicissitudes is a disappointing task, for no sooner is the narrative written than we are haunted by its imperfections. Few of the characters might have lived in the limelight, and there may be little to be said of their comings and goings ; but each individual in the

long line has been a person of his own age, and he has reflected the outlook of the particular period when he lived, besides possessing that vivacity and romance which all people share in common and yet succeeding generations express differently.

Into these studies of character and motive the present outline does not enter. The materials at our disposal are insufficient, to overload the book with biographical details would be a burden, and the prospect of ever completing the task is too remote. No one is more aware than the writer that important periods have been sadly treated, that certain conditions have been only partly investigated, and that much of a long story remains to be told. We have attempted no more than a brief outline of that branch of the family which spread abroad from Castle Combe, leaving others to fill in the glowing colours or to touch up the vivid pageantry of eight centuries.

Our first intention was to compile a complete account of the dispersal of the whole family. We have collected for that purpose many extracts from the records of Sussex, Surrey, Essex, London, Oxford, and Bucks, where the name has been propagated from the same original source. A prophet may some day arise to whom the larger work will present a pleasing occupation. In order to assist that end we are presenting to the Library of the British Museum a typed volume of material not included in this book, so that preliminary details may be easily available.

In the narrative we have included extracts from manor court rolls and parish registers which have special bearing on the subject, but the transcripts are not complete. The range of search has generally been stated, although many years in the period may have produced blanks. While we have endeavoured to be accurate, it should be remembered that records deteriorate in the mouldy confinement of a parish chest. When compiling genealogical tables we have tried to be exact by cross-checking the information. We believe the main conclusions are sound, but alternative readings are sometimes possible, which further knowledge might amend in certain respects.

The earlier part of the book, before general registration

appeared, states the approximate years of a man's birth and decease. No account of these events was preserved in the ancient world, where a man was remembered only in the circle of those more intimately concerned with his life. When registration was introduced by order of Henry VIII, the movement encountered bitter opposition, because with a natural instinct and sore recollections the nation regarded it as a prelude to fresh taxation. In stating the periods of life we have done our best to be approximate if not precise, without appearing in any way dogmatic.

To simplify the index we have arranged it in two parts. In the first portion members of the family are included under the section where their names have been recorded, referring to Charts of Descent giving succeeding generations in graphic order. All other family names have been placed in the general index, with a reference sufficient to indicate where the association may be sought. This information is verified by the corresponding entry on the court roll or in the parish register, where that evidence is produced and so far as a dependable descent has been discovered. Some of the Berkshire and Gloucestershire registers left a number of loose threads which with diligence might be worked up into another century of local tradition.

The wills and administrations reproduce no more than genealogical references and features of uncommon interest. An exact transcript would have increased the size of the book to an unwarrantable extent. A reference following each extract states where the will may be found. Anyone desiring the complete copy can obtain it without difficulty. This work is now done in the Principal Probate Registry by a process giving an inexpensive facsimile reproduction of the original document.

A family history based on contemporary records is of far greater worth than the airy assumption that you are descended from William the Conqueror or Alfred the Great, or any other proposition which cannot be demonstrated. The present work reduces nebulous suppositions to established facts, without professing to be complete. It might be enlarged and enriched to a considerable degree by some account of the maternal ancestry, the importance of

which is seldom regarded. These elaborations we must leave to some future worker in the field of research, who values the name and reputation of his forbears sufficiently to desire to learn who they were and whence they came.

ARTHUR H. PLAISTED.

MEDMENHAM VICARAGE,
GREAT MARLOW, BUCKS.

31st May, 1939.

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THE FAMILY NAME

THE FAMILY NAME

THE origin of family names can become a fascinating study, for it brings within the reach of everybody one of the most attractive fields of historical research. It is frequently overdone by imaginative speculators who embark upon the business without much knowledge of the processes of human thought, and conclude by producing weird and wonderful nonsense on the origin and development of family names. With the wings of imagination it is possible to fit into fanciful theories of origin many names of commonplace manufacture, and if such conclusions were true they would invest simple words with a polished and scholarly interpretation which they never possessed. Our experience of ordinary everyday language is sufficient to suggest that names conveniently arose by chance rather than by deliberate design. In a community where several families possessed similar Christian names, people distinguished one from another in a primitive fashion, by the recital of their physical graces or temperaments, their habits of life or their locality, or by some other determining feature, with that cheerful disregard for orthodox conformity which is so refreshing in the mediæval mind.

There were no hereditary surnames in England before the Conquest, although many symbols now in use as family names are words of pre-Norman origin. The cult of the family name travelled downward through the social structure, until it met among the peasant class the more primitive family distinctions, and the two waves of fashion blended into the names which greet us at the dawn of the Renaissance. Such surnames as we find in Domesday Book (1086) were introduced by the Normans, and they are so called because of being super-added to the Christian designation. The appearance of certain names in that Survey does not prove that the possessors were Companions of the Con-

queror. Petty wars and military tournaments levied so heavy a drain on the knighthood of the country that in feudal days the male succession often faded out. Not more than two families in England to-day can prove a male descent from Domesday, and none can maintain an earlier title, although many profess to do so. About twelve families can trace early Norman descent through the female line. All other claims are cases of adopting an ancestor, which is a far simpler process than adopting a child. There are no restrictions on ancestors. They make no protest against your attachment. If you affirm that your people came over with the Conqueror, or that your family is of Anglo-Saxon origin, no one can raise serious objection: for while the assertion may be impossible to prove, it is equally difficult to refute. Thousands of foundlings have received distinguished names from the parish beadle, and many descendants of those children, now in easy circumstances but ignorant of their origin, fondly imagine they are allied to the noble families whose names they bear. A tabulated history based on contemporary records is the only genuine form of genealogy. The aim of this work is to set out the first appearance and later developments of the Plaisted family.

A rough analysis of British surnames will divide them into two classes. The first group includes the names inherited at birth, which may be said to reveal anyone's descent, while the second class represents the names afterwards acquired by licence or custom, which often conceal the facts of history. The latter examples are outside our perambulation, but they vary from the assumed names of theatrical artistes, film stars, business men, or private individuals, to the adopted names of aliens, refugees, or foundlings. In some of them will be found English versions of foreign words. It requires more than ordinary perception to identify Montrose with Rosenberg, and when Grünbaum becomes Leyton (*Late Hun*) or Gibowiez gently glides into Gibbs we begin to understand that a name may be adopted sometimes to disguise rather than interpret the facts of genealogy. The names which are native to this country answer to certain determining questions, which can be settled only by con-

sidering them with reference to the first appearance of the name. If a questionnaire of four points could be addressed to our most remote ancestor who was able to boast of a name, the origin of his name would be found in one of the answers. The deciding factors are these: What was his peculiar personality? Where was his place of origin? What was his occupation in life? Who was his most important kinsman?

THE PERSONAL ELEMENT

The descriptive surname, denoting the peculiarity of the first possessor, which was once the largest class, is now not more than ten per cent. of English family names, yet it still represents the most delightfully varied of all personal names. It includes such names as were bestowed from character, personal appearance, physical features, habits of life, temper of mind, or other attributes which may have distinguished their possessor. Who could mistake the obvious derivation of many names we find in old manor rolls? We there hobnob with Adam Armstrong, Robin Redhead, Roger Careless, Edmund Godliman, John Gentilman, William Littlefair, Hugh Proud of Noght, Edward Merriman, Richard Truelove, and Henry Tallboy. The playful sense is amusing which first named Robert Standandgaze, John Stoutlook, Henry Fairandgode, and William Stutterforth. We are struck by the pugnacity of Stephen Mustard, Robert Punschinn, Joseph Pepper, Gilbert Savage, and Richard Clinkadagger. And who could doubt the piety of Robert Litany, Alan Paternoster, or Roger Benedicite? Descriptions of this class failed in many cases to survive as family names, but the descendants of William Good, Thomas Scattergood, Richard Toogood, Henry Goodenough, with others of good report, are still with us, to point a moral even if they no longer adorn a tale.

THE TOPOGRAPHICAL ORIGIN

The custom of distinguishing a man by his place of origin, locality, or property, accounts for about fifty per cent. of English surnames, and the selection is as varied as it is

lengthy. Its ramifications are so endless that to quote examples would be superfluous. There is scarcely a town or hamlet in this country which cannot be associated with some family name, yet this fact alone does not in itself prove distinguished descent. Many a man settling in new surroundings was identified by his place of origin, where he may have been in humble enough service. Henry le Swineherd forsaking Mandeville to seek fresh pastures elsewhere, might in his new environment become Henry de Mandeville, although still feeding swine, and thus unconsciously perpetuate a claim to descent from a Companion of the Conqueror. A name in itself proves nothing. Any sort of territorial designation alone is worth nothing. Its value can be established only by a documented table of descent.

But place-names form only a small proportion of this class. John Atwell became that sort of entity because he lived at the well, and Stephen Attwood dwelt near the wood. All sorts of topographical features entered into the naming of a nation, because such things signified a man's location, his holding, his neighbourhood, or some salient fact which served to denote his individuality. Mountain, lake, river, and forest were all pressed into the service of identification. The pictorial sign outside a tavern proclaimed to an illiterate nation that it was a house of refreshment, and John of the Bull became John Bull. He might quite equally have been John Hart or John Bell, but without some such sign John was not permitted by the manor court to sell beer. Many other shops also had their special signs. If William the mercer displayed in front of his shop the familiar fleece of a sheep the chances were he would become William Lamb, or with luck he might remain William Mercer.

THE OCCUPATIONAL FACTOR

Surnames of occupational origin may themselves be subdivided into other classes, representing descriptions derived from office or profession, from military or manorial service, from trade or vocation. They comprise about twenty per cent. of the whole number. Many names remind us of forgotten occupations, or are to-day obsolete words. There were officials of the manor, as William Alefounder, Richard

Forrester, John Reeve (bailiff), or Robert Grosvenor (head huntsman). Others found their occupational surnames in the Church, the Law, or the Army. Certain features in an unknown ancestor fastened the description upon the individual, and the name remained with the family long after the first cause was forgotten. The designation may even have arisen from mock office, as when the King and Queen were chosen for the May festivals. There was a striking and robust humour in the mediæval mind which labelled a man more indelibly than any rite of baptism.

The most important and the largest class of these occupational surnames, however, represents the trade or vocation of the possessor. In endless procession the trades of our forefathers appear as family names, often compounded with sundry descriptive details. There were many Smiths, as Arrowsmith, Goldsmith, Hammersmith, or Shosmith; while -ward, -wright, or -monger form countless permutations and combinations. One Richard le Fethermonger (1322) is a somewhat unusual example. Among the feudal tenants some are described by their state or condition, as Henry Bond, Andrew Frye, or Philip Yeoman; while others are named from their masters, as Frereman, Monkman, or Wyllnave. A great many are qualified with the agential suffixes, -er, -ier, or -ster, and reveal occasionally an ancient calling. We have William Comber, a worker in wool; Edward Porcher, a swineherd; and James Wagner, a wagoner. The more peculiar names include William Blackister, a blacksmith; George Shapster, a dressmaker; while Edward Brewster needs no introduction.

THE GENEALOGICAL CLASS

One of the most natural ways to identify a person was to repeat his parentage or family association, a process still cultivated in suburban society. When James Jones in this age of snobbery marries Harriet Harcourt, the family tends to blossom into Harcourt-Jones, and James cultivates the appropriate social manner; or a high-sounding Christian name is hyphenated to produce a pretentious surname. The instinct of an earlier generation was more practical. Surnames of the genealogical class, which extend to about

twenty per cent. of the whole, were derived from either parent, with a liberal disregard for conventionality, qualified by a suitable prefix or appendix. The Latin *filius* was shortened to *fil*s and afterwards *fitz*, so that Robert le fil Walter became FitzWalter. Reginald, Earl of Cornwall, whose name appears later in this volume under the Barony of Castle Combe, took the name of FitzRoy, being descended from Henry I and Adeliza.

Then followed the fashion of an inflected genitive, producing William Johannis, possibly an ancestor of the above James Jones ; Robert Gilberti ; and others of that breed. The English form of this tendency is seen in the endings -es, -is, or -s, by which Thomas Edwardes became Edwards, and William Robins initiated the family that still perpetuates his memory. This simplified derivation produced endless diminutives, sometimes with a suffix or with a genitive, as with Coles, which is one of the many diminutive genitives of Nicholas.

But as a child is equally the son of his mother, and women of the Middle Ages often kept their own names after marriage, we observe such names as Matilda Miriel (Merrill), Roger Alis, or Richard Sibely. It was no sign of base birth that children took the names of their mothers. The family was identified by reference to the better-known parent. An example of female consanguinity gives some interest to the early generations of the Plaisted family in Sussex. The four daughters of Richard Placetis (*temp.* Edward II) became his co-heiresses, and the estate thus entailed included a moiety of Ticehurst. This property afterwards descended to Thomas de Playstede, custodian of Lewes Castle, thus providing a particular illustration of a genealogical name being transmitted through a mother who after marriage preserved her own identity. During his lifetime the above Richard Placetis also adopted his mother's name and became known as de Wrotham.

Endless surprises await us in the labyrinth of genealogical names. We smile at the charming familiarity which first dubbed Cecilia Dansdoghter, Henry Beatson (son of Beatrice), and Richard Dameysabele. The more abundant influence in the formation of genealogical surnames, however, is mainly

Saxon. Often the derivation has not been purely transmitted. Ant, Bass, Bill, Brode, and a variety of other originals, are constituents of many modern names ; while Aldred, Algar, Alfree, are compounded from the same source. This class also includes personal names from Gaelic, Celtic, or Norman influences, and among the latter is Plessis, to which we will presently return.

THE NAME PLAISTED

The name Plaisted is found to be genealogical in derivation. It has been the subject of varied speculation among writers, who have generally been content to make a blind shot at its source, then leave others to disprove their conclusions. Many bright interpretations have been put forward by those who profess a knowledge of the subject, suggesting that Plaisted and its variants signify a dweller near a play place, or at the village stadium ; but the most brilliant guesswork can never take the place of methodical investigation. No one can conjecture the derivation of any uncommon surname by the simple evidence of philology, but by combining genealogy with philology we may at least expect to eliminate errors and arrive at a sound conclusion.

It is true that land in ancient days gave people names rather than that people gave land names, but a similarity of sound or spelling without any argument for the first appearance of a family name can prove nothing whatever. That sort of genealogical speculation leads us nowhere. The result can best be likened to the ingenuity of the schoolboy, who when asked in a common knowledge paper to interpret R.I.P., frequently seen in churchyards, ventured the answer : " Rise if possible." It is so obvious that therefore it must be true.

THE PROCESS OF DEDUCTION

The only avenue of discovery to determine the origin of any surname is to compile an authenticated biographical and historical pedigree dating back to the earliest appearance of the name. If those who first adopted the name possessed

any features or circumstances in common, the origin should clearly be sought in that direction. By a careful comparison with other suggested theories of derivation, it is then a simple matter to rule out absurd or impossible alternatives.

Our field of investigation is considerably narrowed when we discover that about the year 1300 the name Plaisted existed only in certain isolated districts south of the Trent. If there were any truth in the place-name theories the family ought to be found distributed casually over the country, and should be discovered in countless parts of England. The first families of Plaisted which have been traced are only four in number, and they arose in North Wilts, North Bucks, Sussex, and Somerset. As time progressed branches from these areas migrated farther afield, but the principal lines of descent started at those centres. The families were also people of substance, holding responsible positions in a state of society where the copyholder was quite commonly related in blood to the manorial lord.

THE LOCUS LUDORUM THEORY

This process of elimination brings any theory of deduction within definite limits. If there had been a play-stow, or *locus ludorum*, near any of the neighbourhoods we have examined, an alternative theory of origin could at once be stated, but nowhere in the districts under review can such traces be discovered, nor are there any local references which might lead to that conclusion. Many large parishes in mediæval days had their open spaces of recreation for the inhabitants, but the common designation was play-stow, meaning an open playing ground, and not play-stead, which is something altogether different. The wild speculations of writers on nomenclature are accompanied by no concrete evidence in support of their statements. There are no examples to be found in mediæval history of a resident named Playstead domiciled "at a play or sports place." The Pleistede quoted by C. L. Ewen in Gloucestershire (pley—a bank, and stead—a household) had been Pleistede long before his ancestor had set out from North Wilts (1530), and established himself on the banks of the Severn. It is also extremely unlikely that anyone named after the village

playground in the vernacular of the fourteenth century would have been a freeholder of landed property, which we shall see extended in those days to some hundreds of acres.

An extensive examination of ancient documents makes it equally clear that while the surname Plaistow occurs at an early date in nearly every part of England south of the Trent, no early instances of Plaisted can be adduced in the same area, other than the examples for which we are able to account. The possibility of relationship had already been explored by Mr. D. W. Plaistowe, of the London Society of Genealogists, who wrote saying: "I have found no connection between our family names, except that my name appears to be Anglo-Saxon, and yours seems to be Anglo-French." The same writer observed that the name Plaistowe crops up in Kent and Bucks in the twelfth century, in Wilts and Sussex 1216, Derbyshire 1316, Surrey 1322, Devonshire 1326, Worcester 1327, Norfolk 1361, Nottinghamshire 1385, Essex 1406, Herts 1441, and Northants 1542. These independent conclusions fairly dispose of the *locus ludorum* theory for the origin of the name Plaisted.

THE DEMESNE DU PLESSIS

The earliest record of the Plaisted family appears in the form Pleistede (1327), and the spelling of those days closely followed the emphasis of pronunciation. It has the silent "e" of Pless rather than the long "a" of Play, and it is never confounded anywhere with the name Plaistowe. We have not discovered a single example in early history where both names were confused or existed together. Such evidence as we possess confirms our conclusion that Pleistede was not of topographical origin. The Court Rolls of Castle Combe, where the name Pleistede is first found in North Wilts, contain no word whatever of any village green or play place within the manor. We find the Manor Court (1447) forbidding tenants to play hockey, football, nine holes (primitive golf), and "rush and bowles," which may have been mediæval cricket or "rounders," but never a single reference to a *locus ludorum*. Their stadium was more often the village street. If a particular local feature were of sufficient importance to identify a family, it is strange that

for more than three centuries the court proceedings, which enter into the most trivial details, are silent about its existence.

The origin of the family takes us beyond Normandy to Plessis of Poitou, in the Valley of the Creuse, to the home of William de Plessis, Seigneur de Plessis, des Breux and de la Vernolière, from whom genealogists derive the descent of Armand Jean de Plessis (*fl.* 1585–1642), who became the Duc de Richelieu, Cardinal of France and Chief Minister of Louis XIII. The arms of his branch are—*argent, three chevrons gules*. The Maison du Plessis was a Norman baronial family of Scandinavian extraction, being of Viking descent, and the Normans had been domiciled for two centuries in the Province of Gaul. Their sojourn in France had imparted to them the sense of unity, of nationality, and of ordered government, with a certain amount of learning and of law. When the Normans invaded England it was a question whether this country would become a province of France or would retain its insular independence ; but largely because its barrier was the sea, while the boundaries of continental countries were continually changing, the influence of the Normans not only welded England into a homogeneous nation, but enabled this country to develop its own peculiar civilisation and its own charter of freedom, in a state of security which at that time was unique in the whole world.

John du Plessis, second son of the above William du Plessis, left Poitou his native country in 1217, with Guy de Lusignan and William de Valence, step-brothers of Henry III. This is deduced from a statement made by Ralph Brook, York Herald, in his *Catalogue des Comtes de Warwic*, printed in London 1619, where he observes that Jean came from Poitou. The same conclusion is supported by the fact that another of the family, Lawrence du Plessis, accompanied Guy de Lusignan, King of Jerusalem, to the Holy Land. John du Plessis was knighted in 1227 with William de Valence and other esquires, and he was one of four knights to whom £60 was given for their support. Men in our time have been ready to pay for the privilege of knighthood : in feudal days they often paid to be excused. The statute



From the Rous Roll.

JOHN DU PLESSIS (1195-1263)

9th Earl of Warwick ; Knight Crusader and Baron du Plessis ; of Poitou, Normandy ; Long Wittenham, Berks ; and Castle Combe, North Wilts.

“Distrain of Knighthood” (Edw. I) compelled all freeholders with land yielding £20 a year to become knights, but many preferred to forfeit the distrain.

DU PLESSIS OF BERKS AND WILTS

Sir John du Plessis served as a knight in the Welsh Campaigns of 1231 and 1234. About the year 1230 he married Christine, widow of William de Sideham, daughter and heiress of Hugh de Sandford of Hook Norton, Oxon, who held two-thirds of a knight's fee and manor of West Wittenham, one-half of which on the death of Hugh de Sandford came to Christine and her husband, John du Plessis. The portion of Long Wittenham Church, known as St. Thomas' aisle, is stated on good authority to have been built during the lifetime of John and Christine. It would not be rash to claim that they had some personal interest in the doing of that work. Christine du Plessis died about 1240, leaving a young family. Her husband took for his second wife in September 1243 Margaret de Neuborg, sister and heiress of Thomas, 6th Earl of Warwick, widow of John Marshall, 4th Earl of Pembroke, who died in October, 1242. In right of his wife, Sir John du Plessis became the 9th Earl of Warwick, but he did not assume that title until 1245, when his tenure of the earldom for life had been assured by William Maudit, the first cousin of Margaret and the next heir to the earldom.

About that time the Eighth Crusade was decided upon by the Council at Lyons (1245), and Sir John particularly pleased Henry III by taking the Cross in interesting circumstances, related by Matthew Paris :

“On the Monday before Hokeday the King summoned all the Londoners to come to Westminster to hear his will : and ordered the Bishops of Worcester and Chester, and the Abbot of Westminster, to make a solemn sermon to the people on the subject of taking up the Cross. On account of the extortions and deceptions practised by the Court of Rome very few persons took the Cross, wherefore the King called the Londoners a pack of base mercenaries. The King himself (whose motives were suspected to have a financial origin) swore to take the Cross on St. John the Baptist's Day 3 years from that date. Among the courtiers Richard de Grey and his brother John, and John de Plexeto, took the

Cross, and the King ran up to them and kissed and embraced them, calling them his brothers."

This Crusade started off in 1248 under Louis IX of France, but the leader was taken prisoner at Mansurah, and after his ransom (1250) a ten years' truce was agreed upon. In an indirect manner the Crusades had a great effect upon this country. They enriched and enlarged the mentality of the west, and they were the first phase in that endless thrust of the energetic nations of New Europe which never ceased until it had overrun the world.

A few years later Sir John du Plessis, 9th Earl of Warwick, was (1253-4) with Henry III in Gascony, and when returning to England had an unpleasant adventure. Louis IX had given him letters of safe conduct to go home through Poitou, and he set off in the company of Gilbert de Segrave and William de Maudit. On their way the party was treacherously waylaid, seized and imprisoned, by the citizens of the town of Pons. Segrave died in prison, and John du Plessis was detained until the following year. Henry III, says Matthew Paris, "was angry when he heard of it, but not so angry as he should have been had he had a royal heart: he did, however, write to the Citizens, but they paid no heed to his letter." The story of this period of misrule, and its leading characters, is strikingly related by Matthew Paris (1200-59), quoting from a marvellous selection of contemporary authorities, with an accuracy and an eloquence unrivalled in any monastic historian. He was the Chronicler of St. Alban's Abbey, and a man who probably did more than anybody to create in this country that national sentiment which bound the whole people together to wrest a charter of freedom from the Crown.

The loyalty of Sir John du Plessis to Henry III was rewarded in various ways. On his return from an expedition to Poitou, in 1242, he was granted a charger worth £30, and while in Gascony he was paid £200 for his services in conducting negotiations with Gaston de Bearn. The offices bestowed upon him were further marks of royal favour. He was Warden of the Royal Castle of Devizes and of Chippenham Forest, Sheriff of Oxfordshire, Constable of the Tower

of London, and a Judge of Assize (Commissioner of Oyer and Terminer) for the Counties of Somerset, Devon, and Dorset. He was nominated by Henry III on the Committee of twenty-four under the Provisions of Oxford (1258) to draw up terms for the reform of the state according to Magna Charta, and he was one of the fifteen members on the Permanent Council to advise the King on the ordinary work of government. These glimpses of mediæval affairs show us the 9th Earl of Warwick as a widely trusted servant of the Crown. We also read in the Annals of Dunstable that Sir John was one of the Barons who "took the King's brothers at Winchester and took them to the sea, making them swear never to return."

Among other charges Sir John du Plessis obtained the wardship of the heirs of Nicholas Malesmaines, also of the three co-heiresses of John Besit of Combe, which privilege Sir John applied for the benefit of his own family, in the accustomed manner of the period. His daughter Beatrice was endowed for life with one-third of each of the three portions. One heiress, Isabella, was married to his son Hugh II, while another, Ela, was bestowed upon a younger son, Robert. Almaric de Plessis, another son of John and Christine, was Rector of Long Wittenham towards the end of the thirteenth century. We are not mainly interested in the descent of the du Plessis property, but it may be well to trace the elder branch to extinction. Hugh de Plessis II died in 1292, leaving a son and heir Hugh III, whose son Hugh IV was born about 1296. He succeeded to the estates in 1301, and was followed by Hugh V, born in 1321, who died childless about 1353, leaving a widow Elizabeth, on whose death the de Plessis estates passed to Hugh's sister Eleanor, wife of John Lenneysey. A shield of arms of du Plessis—*argent, six annulets gules*—formerly appeared in one of the windows of the south aisle of Long Wittenham Church, and was probably placed there to commemorate Hugh V, the last of his line.

We have referred to the interest of the du Plessis family in the estates of Sir John Besit of Combe. An interesting point now arises in that no agreement has ever been reached about the distinction in early records between Castle Combe

and Combe Besit. In the reign of John, and for many years later, both places were alike written *Cumba* in the Patent Rolls and all other public documents. A royal warrant of 8th June, 1451, commanded the Treasurer and Chamberlain of the Exchequer to "search the Book of Domysday" on the question of ancient privileges attaching to the respective manors. The evidence outlined in their report is so confounding that it easily proves Castle Combe to have been Combe Besit. We will quote on this subject the eminent authority of the late G. Poulett Scrope, Esq., M.P., who wrote :

"The ancient documents in existence relative to Castle Combe are more abundant (than Combe Besit) but to some extent tend rather to obscure than elucidate the point, since by a remarkable singularity, a considerable series of them directly support, on seemingly the very highest authority, what on the whole clearly appears the wrong alternative."

What seems more likely is that Sir John du Plessis and Sir John Besit were associated with Castle Combe and not with Combe Besit. This suggestion is confirmed by the fact that the Bassets (*temp.* Henry III) held Winterbourne Bassett and Compton Bassett, parts of the Barony of Castle Combe, from Walter de Dunstanville III by service of a knight's fee ; being related to that family through Walter de Dunstanville I, whose sister Adeliza had married Thomas Basset, Lord of Hedendon (10 Henry II), and whose wife Ursula Fitzroy was granddaughter of Henry I. In the same neighbourhood also the Pleistede family emerged (1327) in William de Pleistede of Castle Combe and Hannington, Roger de Pleistede of Compton Bassett, and Richard de Pleistede of Sterte, these four places being all within the Barony of Castle Combe.

DU PLESSIS OF BUCKS

The closing years of John du Plessis, Earl of Warwick and Baron Plessitis, were clouded with the Barons' War, where we lose the priceless aid of Matthew Paris and are dependent upon the scant jottings of lesser historians. A champion of English freedom arose in Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, a man of severe piety, the head of the

Baronial Party, and the patron of the Friars ; whose friend and supporter Robert de Montfort in 1270 became Baron of Castle Combe. Henry III occupied the autumn of 1262 in an attempt to conciliate the Barons, who insisted upon the observance of the Provisions of Oxford. The Earl of Warwick was summoned to London 29th October, when he received further assurance of the King's confidence (p. 255), but he did not live to see the issue of those troubles. Before the storm burst which decided the quarrel John du Plessis died 26th February, 1263, and was buried at Missenden Abbey, Bucks. The Countess Margaret, whose bequests to the poor of Warwick, etc., are named on the Rous Roll, had predeceased her second husband, and as he had no children by her the title passed to William Maudit, a grandson of Waleran, Earl of Warwick, and a grandson through his father of the Chamberlain of Henry I. He was the last of the great Norman barons. On the death of William Maudit, the Earldom of Warwick proceeded through the female line to the Beauchamp family, whose footprints on the sands of time are more distinct.

John du Plessis died at Quainton, Bucks, where in the parish church is an interesting brass of the early 1300's, having the demi-figure of a young girl with long hair, and in Norman French these words :

*Ici gist Johane Plessi :
Dieu d'saluie est mei.*

We also find that at Quainton a branch of the Plaisted family existed from about the fourteenth-century Joan until the seventeenth century, when the members drifted to London, and the line became merged in a complicated tangle of genealogical records, which up to now have not been fully explored. The more affluent people of Bucks descent owned land at Hardwick and Laleham, while one Thomas (*d.* 1750) of Laleham and Garlic Hill, Middlesex, also left land at Lancaster, co. Worcester, New England. James Plaisted, a descendant of the Quainton stock, was connected by marriage with Edward Archer Wilde, solicitor, of London, whose son Sir James Plaisted Wilde (*b.* 1816) became a Judge of the High Court, and was created 1st Baron Penzance.

DU PLESSIS OF SUSSEX

The branch of the family which settled in Sussex had its origin in Hugh de Placetis, son of another Hugh, who in turn was brother to John, 9th Earl of Warwick. This Hugh the younger resided at Enfield, co. Middlesex, and married Muriel de Wrotham, by whom he had three sons, Richard, John, and William. They inherited part of the Malesmaines estates, for which wardship and marriage the Earl of Warwick (26 Henry III) paid 100 marks to the Crown. One son, Richard, who took his mother's name, received by inheritance from his father certain lands at Enfield and Edmonton. He also had Aldenham, Herts, with lands in Kent, Surrey, and Sussex, which had been the portion of Muriel de Wrotham. John de Placetis, second son of Hugh of Enfield, is stated in Hutchins' *History of Dorset* (Vol. III) to be the ancestor of the Placeys of Wimborne St. Giles and of Shapwick.

On the decease of the above Richard his four daughters became co-heiresses, and among that property was the Manor of Ticehurst. Little is known of the next few years, but Henry de Playstede and Margaret his wife in the year 1356 disposed of part of their estate at Lewes to William Swon. Later in that century the Innings of Pevensey Levels (20 Richard II), 1396-7, make mention of the land of Stephen Playstede. In a Subsidy Roll (13 Henry IV), 1412, a moiety of Ticehurst was in possession of Isabella Playstede, and it afterwards passed to her husband Thomas Playstede, who was warden of Lewes Castle. The Court Rolls of the Rape of Pevensey show that Stephen, Thomas, and Richard Playstede were three brothers. Other evidence makes it clear they were also the descendants of Henry and Margaret Playstede.

The arms of the family are given thus in the later Visitations of Sussex: Arms, *Ermine, three boars' heads gules, coupéd or.* Crest, *A greyhound sejant gules, collar and ring argent.* A writer in the *Sussex Archæological Transactions* (Vol. 6) says that there are four noted Sussex families having practically the same arms, the two families of the Luxfords, the Lunsdons, and the Plaisteds; from which he



*Photograph by
Lambert of Bath*

CASTLE COMBE, THE VILLAGE AND BY BROOK, WITH A
DISTANT VIEW OF THE MARKET CROSS

concludes that these families had a common origin. This theory might find its solution in the four co-heiresses of Richard de Wrotham, whose later history we have not examined.

DU PLESSIS OF SOMERSET

William de Placetis (*d.* 1276), son of Hugh of Enfield, and hereditary Master Forester of Somerset, was buried at Hawkridge Church, where a sepulchral slab once built into the wall was said to mark his resting-place. He owned the village and maintained Hawkridge Castle, one of the four strongholds that kept the way down the Valley of the Barle from Exmoor against the armed bands of the West Country. His son Richard, whose second wife was Margaret, held the Lordship of Newton including the Manor of North Pether-ton. In his latter days he resided at Newton, but died without issue overseas, where he gave land in Normandy and Poitou for the repose of his soul, and was buried near his first wife Madeline de Clerby. The name then survived through a younger branch in a William Pleysted, named 1290 in the Calendars of Wells Cathedral (*Costumal of Wynescombe*, p. 336) as a free occupant of certain land. In the same volume (p. 337) another of the family for part of his possessions owed service to the Dean and Chapter of Wells :

“ John de la Plested. $\frac{1}{2}$ virgate : rent 18*d.* and 9*d.* lard money : St. Peter 1*d.* : wardepenny 1*d.* : churchchet $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* : and one stacha of wheat : service (a long list) value 8*s.* 9*d.*”

Some portion of the estate in Somerset passed to William de Pleistede, who is named in Abbot Monington's *Secretium* (1341-74) among the charters relating to Glastonbury Abbey :

“ Carta Henrici de Littleburi facta Will. de Pleistede de una perticata terre super Standonne.”

“ Carta Ricardi de Linkeforde facta Will. de Pleistede de omnibus terris que fuerunt Laurenci Noel in Glastonia.”

The history of that family in Somerset is afterwards lost in obscurity, broken by occasional references, upon which it is impossible to build more than conjecture. Further investigation of ancient documents may provide fresh material. What we found quite clearly was that branches

from the adjoining counties, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire, spread to Somerset in the early 1500's, and established connections under the name Plaister in certain districts. This development has been dealt with in a later chapter headed "Plaisted of Somerset."

THE HONOR DU PLESSIS

These fragments of early history all gather around the scattered lands which constituted the *honor* du Plessis. The estates of the baronage, described in feudal language as the *honor* of the family, were rarely confined to a compact lordship. They were as a rule widely distributed, being interspersed with the possessions of other land owners. There were sound reasons for this policy, besides the obvious convenience of giving to one individual the separate lands of an English thegn. The dispersion of property enlarged the baron's range of influence, for to possess interests in many parts of the country was a distinct advantage. It also reduced the danger of rebellion to a minimum, by preventing the growth of petty kingdoms. The *caput honoris* was the place where the owner of the lordship commonly resided, to which writs of service would be addressed, but the materials available to provide this information concerning families in the thirteenth century are wholly insufficient.

The separate fiefs of a barony required a complex system of management which devolved upon the household or personal staff of the owner, and therefore would tend to propagate his posterity where such interests existed. This is exactly what we find with the family du Plessis. No complete study has ever been made of the administrative side of feudalism. The history of most lordships survives only in the records remaining of the successions to the various fees which constituted the *honor*. These references have been gathered up in the preceding pages. The *honor* du Plessis comprised lands in Berks, Wilts, Sussex, Somerset, Middlesex, and Bucks, with scattered fees in other parts of the country. On the borders of Wales the family de Plescetis held a fee at Nantwich (*Inq. p.m.*, Edward I, Vol. II, p. 454). The lands in Berkshire are described as *de honore de plesseto* (*Book of Fees*, No. 855).

Thus we arrive at the sound derivation of the family name. In the days of the Normans there were no fixed rules of orthography, etymology, or even pronunciation to ensure the accurate transmission of common words. The Earl of Warwick's surname occurs, in the time of Henry III alone, as : de Plessetis, Plascetis, Plecys, Plecy, Plexeto, Plesetis, and Plesseiz. The *Testa de Nevill* (1198-1250), which were returns relating to carucage and knights' fees, include John de Plesid, Earl of Warwick, as owning land at Scottesdon. In the same generation when this diversity arose, and in the identical places where the few du Plessis people are known to have been located, the names de Plessitis or de Plascetis and de Pleistede are first discovered. They were people assessed on the Subsidy Rolls as being of material substance. We found in Somerset the successor of William de Placetis, kinsman of the Earl of Warwick, describing himself as William de Pleistede. It may be considered fairly proved, then, that de Pleistede and its subsequent variations was the local development of the name du Plessis or Placetis in North Wilts, Bucks, Sussex, and Somerset.

The preposition *du* in ancient records became in course of time the more familiar *de*, and it was equivalent in value to *of* or *at*. We also observe that names during the Plantagenet period often became amended from their original form, through the habit or ignorance of the entering clerk. A transitional period is then found where Pleistede was written indiscriminately de Pleistede or atte Pleistede up to about 1360, when the preposition *de* or *atte* was dropped in the Court Rolls of Castle Combe. The spelling did not assume a regular form until four centuries had elapsed. No better example can be found of identity of person and variety of name than that afforded by the parish registers of Mildenhall and Chilton Foliat, Wiltshire.

We could elaborate this story with other testimony of secondary value, which further search might amplify and extend, but we will simply append a few specimens by way of examples. One of the descendants in Bucks, Edward Plaisted of Waddesdon, whose will was proved in 1541, named among the legatees his brother Nicholas Plescet, with that cheerful disregard for exactitude common in

ancient documents, and in pronunciation this is more akin to Plessis. The family name of Maudit also occurs in certain generations, e.g. Maudett Pleysted of Mildenhall (*d.* 1627), which is significant because the next heir to Jean du Plessis in the Earldom of Warwick was William Maudit. The discovery of a Plaisted family in Essex of early origin but elusive descent suggested that a similar genesis might also be claimed for its first beginnings ; the main facts agree with the prevailing conditions we have found elsewhere. The village in Essex now Pleshy was styled *Manerium de Plessetis* on the decease of Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Essex and Hereford (*Cal. Inq. p.m.*, Edward I, Vol. II, p. 552). Evidence of this sort is manifestly circumstantial, but as similar coincidence in other walks of life is generally regarded as conclusive proof, it should here be reckoned as of equal value, although the main conclusion rests upon a firmer foundation.

In every district south of the Trent where the name du Plessis had its existence in the thirteenth century, and nowhere else, the English family name of Pleistede is found within very few years, while the Norman-French form du Plessis entirely disappeared. No other view can stand the test of criticism or answer the plain facts except that the name Pleistede is a variation of Placetis. This theory has emerged from a scientific examination of all the evidence. It is not founded on conjecture, nor is it put forward to bolster a feeble hypothesis or adorn a romantic tale. The value of the conclusion lies in the fact that it accounts for the occasional glimpses of genius and leadership seen in the succeeding generations, which otherwise would be uninterpreted by heredity and unexplained by circumstances.

THE SUCCEEDING GENERATIONS

The earliest family memorial is a mediæval hospital in North Wilts, which was restored a few years ago by Geo. J. Kidston, Esq., C.M.G., known as the Chapel Plaisted. The building now functions as a church within the Manor of Hazelbury, Box, the Parish Church having long since perished. In the fourteenth century the branch in Sussex were custodians of Lewes Castle. The charity of Sir Thomas

Plaisted, King's Bailiff in the Rape of Pevensey, which included Lewes Castle, was affectionately remembered in the will of Edward Duke of York :

Item : Je devise a Thomas Plaisted xx. li. en memorie p'la Naturessse quil me monstra quant je suy a Pevensey en garde.

Early Lincoln Wills : fo. 124. 17 August, 1415.

The family connections by marriage indicate relationship with notable houses, as Delafield of Pollicot, and D'Oyley of Hambleden, Bucks. One Edward Plaisted of Arlington, Sussex, who married Mary Overton (21st October, 1588), daughter of the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, was Naval Lieutenant in the English Fleet which that same year shattered the Spanish Armada. In the annals of Westminster Abbey will be found the marriage (1673) of Charles, 3rd Lord Cornwallis, eldest surviving son of the 2nd Lord Cornwallis and Margaret Plaisted, also of Arlington, Sussex, and in the cloisters of Westminster Abbey is buried another of Margaret's sons : Captain Frederick Cornwallis (1683). We have already referred to Sir James Plaisted Wilde, 1st Baron Penzance. They have been adventurers by land and by sea. The name was prominent in New England in the days of the Pilgrim Fathers, when Lieutenant Roger Plaisted (*d.* 1675) was one of the seven magistrates under the Crown constituting the government of the province of Maine. One of his descendants, General Harris Merrill Plaisted, achieved renown in the American Civil War, was made Attorney-General, and became Governor of the State of Maine. Another apostle of the clan, suitably styled Bartholomew Plaisted, acquired a family and a fortune in the service of the East India Company, and wrote a narrative of his great trek across the Arabian Desert (1750), a copy of which may be seen in the Bodleian Library. There are branches of the family in Canada, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand.

With few exceptions these people have been just ordinary undistinguished gentlemen and yeomen, whose achievements have soon been forgotten. They seldom lived in the purlieu of affluence, but quite a number have died in the wilderness of poverty. Their separate existence has been preserved by the possession of a peculiar name, which even

in these days of education is frequently misspelt. They have been weavers, millers, farmers, brewers, wine merchants, ship owners, barristers, judges, colonial governors, and civil servants ; a truly ragged army of the world's workers. The family procession through this vale of tears has been traced in the tabulated material forming part of this work. There are occasional defective links which careful study could make more perfect, but so far as our investigations have extended the results are here presented, as a memorial to the noble legion who have crossed the flood, and as an inspiration to the younger people who may arise when we have departed.

PLAISTED OF CASTLE COMBE

PLAISTED OF CASTLE COMBE

IN our first searches we collected all instances which could be discovered of the family name in the whole of England and Wales ; then with that information we traced the respective migrations to their sources of origin. This process in time extended to the thirteenth century ; it revealed the first appearance of the family in this country, and led to the deduction of origin already set out. We were greatly helped in the county of Wilts by the patient labours of Sir T. Phillips, whose exhaustive work gave us ready to hand all family name references in the Feet of Fines, Inquisitions post mortem, Muster Rolls, Pipe Rolls, and other records of mediæval society. The available Manor Court Rolls for Wilts were widely explored ; then the line of direction brought us to Castle Combe, where in the thirteenth century the name Pleistede first appeared.

The ownership of the Barony of Castle Combe was at that time passing through a series of rapid changes. In this process the lordship devolved from Walter de Dunstanville (*d.* 1270) to his son-in-law Robert de Montfort (*d.* 1273), the husband of Petronella de Dunstanville. It was afterwards settled upon their son William de Montfort, who sold the Barony for £1,000 sterling to Lord Badlesmere. That noble peer was ignominiously executed for treason, his head was spiked upon the gate of Canterbury as an object lesson to other rebels, and he died (1322) seized of vast possessions.

In the *Testa de Nevill* (1250), which recorded the terms of feudal tenure, it is stated that the Barony of Castle Combe included thirty or more knights' fees in Wiltshire. About twelve of these were in the hands of Walter de Dunstanville, and the rest were held by sub-tenants for feudal suit and military service, which was the currency of England under the Normans. The manors which formed the Liberty of

Castle Combe did not constitute a compact group, but were scattered over the County of Wilts. A careful examination of these makes it clear that the only localities where the name Pleistede occurred before the close of the fifteenth century were all within the Barony of Castle Combe ; i.e. Castle Combe, Hannington, and Mildenhall.

CASTLE COMBE

The visitor to Castle Combe will confess in his heart that it is the most beautiful village in Wiltshire, and indeed in the whole of the West Country. As he approaches the village from Ford by one of the most delightful drives a country district can command, there breaks into view a fine panorama of scenery, overlooking many miles of landscape, in the midst of the picture being the charming village of Castle Combe. It nestles among the foot-hills of the Cotswolds, unspoiled by the passage of years, surrounded by typical English scenery. A Roman road from Bath to Cirencester, the Fosse Way, ran north-east over these hills past North Wraxall and Castle Combe, and near to the latter is the site of a Roman villa. The By Brook, a small but rapid stream, flows through the valley, and after a course of some miles joins the Avon near the village of Box, where it is known as Box Brook. The whole place gives the impression that it is one of those favoured spots which seem to have been preserved to tell of our ancestors, and to remind us of the days when life was filled with wonderment and tranquillity.

We will not dwell upon the prehistoric remains of the neighbourhood, or speak of Roman and Danish traditions which abound in its ancient history. Our story opens towards the end of the thirteenth century, during the lifetime of Walter de Dunstanville (*d.* 1270), whose altar tomb may still be seen in the Church at Castle Combe. The landed estate of Sir John du Plessis, 9th Earl of Warwick, (*d.* 1263), fell mostly to the elder son Hugh, who had obtained in marriage Isabella, daughter of John Basset of Combe. The younger son Robert appears to have been blessed mainly with a marriage portion including a feudal interest at Combe, and a modest freehold at Hanton or

Hannington, Wilts, which he acquired with his wife Ela, a daughter of John Basset of Combe. Marriage in those days was a matter of calculating materialism, family avarice being the dominant feature, in which the woman generally fared badly. A bride was bought or sold as a commercial speculation, the conditions being not unlike those contemplated in the 10th Commandment, where the wife is scheduled in the household inventory. The feudal law which entailed landed property on the eldest son compelled the younger sons to seek their fortune in the world of adventure, in the marriage market, or in some form of industry ; a custom which has done more than anything else to destroy class barriers in this country and to supply the best brains for building up our national commerce.

Some part of the estate which came by marriage to Robert at Hannington was disposed of in 1272, when the following transaction is recorded :

“ This is the final agreement made in the court of the lord king at Westminster in the octave of Holy Trinity in the 56th year of the reign of King Henry son of King John, before Martin de Litlebyro, Stephen Haym and Robert Fulton, justices, and other faithful subjects of the king then there present. Between Nicholas de St. Quintin, querent, and Robert de Plessitis and Ela his wife, impediments of two parts of one carucate of land with appurtenances in Honington. Whereupon a plea of warranty of charter was summoned between them in the same court, to wit, that the said Robert and Ela have acknowledged the said two parts with appurtenances to be the right of the same Nicholas as those which the same Nicholas has of the gift of the said Robert and Ela. To have and to hold to the same Nicholas the said Ela for ever. Rendering therefore yearly one rose at the Nativity of St. John the Baptist for all services, customs, and exactions to the said Robert and Ela and the heirs of the same Ela belonging. And doing therefore to the chief lord of that fee for the said Robert and Ela all other services which to the said two parts belong. And moreover the same Robert and Ela have granted for themselves and the heirs of the same Ela that the third part of the said carucate of land with the appurtenances which Alexander de Aundevill and Beatrice his wife held in dower for the same Beatrice of the inheritance of the said Ela the day on which this agreement was made, and which third part with appurtenances after the death of the same Beatrice ought to revert

to the said Robert and Ela and the heirs of the said Ela after the death of the same Beatrice should wholly remain to the said Nicholas and his heirs, to hold together with the said two parts with the appurtenances of the said Robert and Ela and the heirs of the said Ela by the said services for ever. And the said Robert and Ela and the heirs of the same Ela will warrant to the same Nicholas and his heirs the said land with appurtenances which to him by this fine remains, and to the same should revert by the said services against all men for ever. And for this acknowledgment, grant, warrant, fine, and agreement, the same Nicholas gave to the said Robert and Ela 144 marks of silver. And this agreement was made in the presence of the said Alexander and Beatrice, and they acknowledged themselves to have no claim in the said third part with appurtenances as the aforesaid is, except in the name of dower."

Feet of Fines, Wilts. File 22, No. 36. 56 Henry III.

In the above transfer two features are deserving of passing attention. Whatever feudal service may have been due from the land sold to Nicholas de St. Quintin was to be commuted for a rose to be rendered yearly to Robert and Ela on the Nativity of St. John the Baptist. The quit rent of a rose was familiar in property dealing until the advent of the more modest peppercorn. It will be observed that one-third of the estate of Sir John Besit of Combe had been bestowed in dower upon Beatrice, who was the daughter of John du Plessis, 9th Earl of Warwick.

There are no surviving documents to explain in what way the manor of Castle Combe was partitioned among the subtenants for feudal service, but following the decease of the above Robert de Plessitis we find a moiety of one-third was in possession of William de Pleistede, who held it with lands at Hannington or Honington by customary tenure from Lord Badlesmere. William paid subsidy duty (1333-4) on his possessions in each place. The copyhold of Castle Combe afterwards passed to Richard Pleistede (1295-1374), who achieved affluence as a successful merchant of the staple at a time when the cloth manufacture was a prosperous business, for thus wrote Thomas Deloney of that period :

" Among all Crafts this was the only chief, for that it was the greatest merchandize, by the which our Country became famous thorowout all Nations. . . . The yonger sons of

knights and gentlemen, to whom their Fathers would leave no lands, were most commonly preferred to learn this trade, to the end that thereby they might live in good estate and drive forth their days in prosperity."

The process of pressing and bleaching cloth by water power had been recently introduced into England, where Castle Combe became the centre of that industry in the West Country. The most celebrated wool fair in North Wilts took place on St. George's Day at Castle Combe. Thither the sheep masters came from as far afield as Northampton. The market cross in the midst of the village, which remains much as it was five centuries ago, was then a scene of uncommon activity. Around the cross in those days the booths of the wool fair would have stretched down the street to the bridge and beyond. Shearers, weavers, fullers, combers, carders, and spinners, jostling in the crowd, might have been identified by their trade badges. Before the end of the fourteenth century English craftsmen were serious rivals of the Netherlands in making fine cloth, and by the Tudor period the staple industry of this country had outstripped all competition, having achieved the greatest excellence and captured the principal markets. In the village as it exists to-day every prospect pleases ; there are few signs of hard usage or decay. The quaint Tudor houses, with their mullioned windows and oak doors black with age, in excellent preservation, give every indication of old-world prosperity, and their peaceful surroundings have all the undisputed charm of the most delightful village in England.

THE PLAISTED CHAPEL

Richard Pleistede of Castle Combe was a man of deep spirituality : he lived in one of the great periods of English history. It was a time when voluntary enterprise was expressing itself in various forms of charitable foundations. Some of the best things we possess originated in that tide of human compassion, which has always been the noblest element in our national life. It is part of the Englishman's tradition of self-government. Side by side with the violence and materialism of mediæval life, there was much of moral integrity and pious devotion. These were the dominant

marks of the fourteenth century, and they are perpetuated in the buildings of that period. Guilds and private persons were constantly building churches, chantries, hospitals, or schools, and associated with those charities were priests to say masses, sometimes endowed with the cost of maintenance, but more often left to depend upon the voluntary gifts of posterity.

The surviving evidence suggests that Richard Pleistede was the builder of a hospital to shelter sick pilgrims on the road to Glastonbury. This house of entertainment, now known as Chapel Playster or Plaisted, is situated in the parish of Hazelbury, within the Liberty of Castle Combe. The spot was well chosen. The Chapel stands at the end of Corsham Ridge, on the high road from Corsham to Bradford, near to the junction of six different roads. The old Roman highway from Silchester and London passed near at hand across the Kingsdown heights to Bath. In one of his letters Bishop Latimer, chaplain to Anne Boleyn and martyr of the English Reformation, was amazed at the pilgrims who "came by flocks out of the west country to many images, but chiefly to the blood of Hailes." The clearest evidence of the origin of this Chapel is deduced from the first licence as a religious house granted by the Bishop of Salisbury :

1340. William de Rysindon, Rector de Haslebury, in Capella de Pleistede, in parochia sua de Haslebury.

From the Register of Robert Wyville, Bishop of Salisbury (1330-75). Licences per Orationes.

The Chapel consists of a nave and chancel, 29 feet long by 9 feet 3 inches wide, with a north transept providing accommodation for the resident priest. The latter part of the building has a good three-light pointed window in the north gable, surrounded by a label mould, its stone tracery being reminiscent of the Decorated style. In former days the nave had an upper floor, approached by a twisted staircase in the south-west angle, with an open end towards the sanctuary, enabling people to obtain an uninterrupted view of the Ceremonial of the Mass. Against the east wall was an altar raised on a few steps, where masses were said for the founder, his wife, parents, benefactors, the King, and all

Christian souls. Above the altar is a reredos, formed of three canopied niches, the centre having a curious projecting semicircular back. Behind this and within the buttress which runs up the centre of the gable outside is a large circular flue, and up that flue was hoisted on dark nights a lantern, visible at a great distance, for guiding wayfarers to welcome refreshment and hospitality. Over the entrance at the west porch, but not quite in the centre, is a large boldly projecting niche of peculiar design, with pierced sides and cusped head, which some writers have presumed was intended for a lantern. Its more probable purpose was to accommodate a statue of the patron saint, because religious houses as well as churches had their own special dedications. The west gable is surmounted by a simple stone bell cot. A good deal of the existing work is of a late fifteenth-century restoration, yet many traces remain of the original building. This Chapel is referred to in the Topographical Collections of John Aubrey, F.R.S. (1659-70), as the "Chapell of Playster, a well known place on ye roade. It was heretofore a place of entertainment for pilgrims that went to Glastonbury to St. Joseph of Arimathea's Chapell. It is now an ale-house, ye little Chapell yet remains of it ; on the outside, towards the highway is a place for holy water." A map of Wiltshire by Robert Morden, a contemporary of John Aubrey, shows "The Chapell of Plaster" a few miles north-east of Bath, and within the same Hundred of Chippenham is Castle Combe.

Adjoining the Chapel is a small house, long known as a wayside inn, which appears to have been originally a house of entertainment for passing guests, and probably formed part of the charity. After the suppression of religious houses and chantries these buildings passed to lay owners, then for over three hundred years the place was used sometimes as a dwelling-place and latterly as a lumber store. In the eighteenth century it was notorious as the headquarters of Tom Baxter, a highwayman who was the terror of the West Country. Its religious inception is indicated by the fact that the sinecure rector of Hazelbury has to keep the roof of the building in repair. In recent years the Chapel passed into the hands of Geo. J. Kidston, Esq., C.M.G., of Hazelbury

Manor, who has restored it and now maintains its regular services.

DESCENDANTS OF RICHARD

The response of Richard Pleistede to the call of a serious life was further evidenced by the training of his younger son, William, for the ministry. He was ordained deacon and priest (1350) by the Bishop of Hereford, but we find no trace of William's further history. It is quite likely that he perished in the Black Death, which ravaged the whole of England at that time and carried off a large proportion of the population.

Soon after the decease of Richard it was stated at a Court of Frankpledge that he held the following property :

“ Rich. Playtude held one messuage & $2\frac{1}{2}$ virgates of land, one cottage & 2 Mondayslands, $\frac{1}{2}$ virgate of land called Wellehous for his lifetime, 1 virgate of land called Casely, one mill, one parcel of land called Shaldelegheforlangs, etc.”

Court of Frankpledge: Manor Rolls of Castle Combe.
21st December, 1374.

A virgate represented a nominal area of thirty Domesday acres, and there were four virgates to a hide of land. The imperial acre is less than half the ancient measure. On this reckoning, and taking the possession of Richard as at least four virgates, it would appear that his land extended to about 250 imperial acres, which was approximately one-sixth of the manor, i.e. a moiety of one-third of Castle Combe.

In the above extract the Mondayslands were cottages with crofts or curtileges, tenanted by Monday-men, who were liable besides their rent to certain feudal obligations. These duties might be commuted for a fixed money payment, sufficient to provide a substitute. There were eight such Monday-men in the manor of Castle Combe. They would have been labourers on the farm lands, or at the fulling mill, whose feudal service was commuted by a payment of rent.

The next heir to Richard's estate was his eldest son John (fl. 1320-90), who paid to the Manor Court on the Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle (1374) the sum of



*From a photograph by
Mrs. Plaisted, Medmenham.*

COLHAM MILL, CASTLE COMBE

*With the By Brook, which flows to the right down a beautiful valley, and passes
under the bridge near the Church. (See p. 35.)*

£16 6s. 8d. taken "for fines of lands and a mill of Richard Pleystede lately dead." These were the customary fines for relief collected by the Manor Court by way of succession duty. Their value can best be judged by a comparison of the relative power of money. Arable land at that time was worth 4d. per acre, meadow land 1s. 6d. an acre, fowls were 1d. each, eggs were twenty for 1d., and a well-paid working man earned a penny a day. The value of money was thus about thirty times its present power, which suggests that the succession duty on Richard's estate represented about £500 of modern currency.

1426530

Our efforts to trace the field names mentioned in the *Inquisition Post Mortem* upon Richard's estate were not attended with conspicuous success. We hoped by that means to have fixed his abode, because the field names of England show a remarkable continuity over several centuries. So far as our investigations extended we conclude that Richard lived at what is now Colham Mill. In former times the house was identified in the Court Rolls as Pleistede's Mulle. It was rebuilt with many others while the manor was in the ownership of Sir John Falstaff, K.G. (1409-59), and it now appears as a typical dwelling of the Tudor period. This place for some generations afterwards was occupied by a family of the name of Fisher, to whom a monument appears in Castle Combe Church, erected in 1764 by Walter Fisher, Esq., at that time M.P. for Boroughbridge, and previously for Malmesbury. Its use as a mill has long been abandoned, but the buildings of Colham Mill and others in the neighbourhood still tell to the tourist over the Cotswolds an eloquent tale of the ancient prosperity of the loom.

While Richard was still living, his son John was granted a messuage and two virgates of land by customary or copyhold tenure, rendering for the same a certain annual rent, as we find set out in the following extract :

"John Pleystede, a native of the lordship, received from the Lord (Sir Robert de Typtoft) one messuage and 2 virgates of land to hold in feudal tenure according to the customs of the manor, rendering for the same 20s. a year at the usual terms. He will also give to the Lord six pence a year for that pasturage called the Hachche and for a way to the same, at the

usual terms, and pay 1s. fine to the Lord. And he promises security for providing the said rent and he is to hold the said tenement at the will of the Lord."

Manor Court Rolls of Castle Combe, 1367.

The property of Richard after the decease of his son John remained to his descendants until the close of the fourteenth century, when it was partitioned in different directions. The main portion was in possession of Robert Cogeler and his wife Agnes, who was apparently a granddaughter of John Pleistede. She outlived her husband Robert Cogeler, and was married again to Richard Haleway, when after the custom of the manor they received a new grant of the family property :

"This day came Richard Haleway and Agnes his wife and took of the lord one messuage and virgate of land, called Pleystedes mulle also one fulling mill with appertinences called Pleystedes mulle and one acre of wood which Robert Cogeler & Agnes formerly held, for the term of their lives. They give to the lord a fine of £20, etc."

Manor Court Rolls of Castle Combe : 6th September, 1420.
Addl. Char. 18476 : memb. 24.

THE MANOR OF HANNINGTON

While Richard Pleistede had inherited the estate of his father William at Castle Combe, the interest at Hannington (also Hanton or Honington) fell to Thomas (*fl.* 1300-60), who was, we presume, a younger brother. Until early middle life he remained at Castle Combe, where in 1339-40 he was bailiff for the manor, for which he received a princely 5s. Some four years later Thomas with certain others brought before the Court Intrinsic of that place grave accusations against "the collectors of money for the work of the Lord King," maintaining that unjust oppressions were being inflicted upon the poorer tenantry of the lordship. The hearing was deferred "until the coming of John Nhotehorn," of whose judicial decision we have no knowledge. It may have been by way of retribution that the following year (1345) Thomas was appointed to serve among the Jurates of the Manor.

At this point Thomas disappeared from the public life of

Castle Combe, but his line can thereafter be traced through a son Robert (*fl.* 1324–70), of whose career we get occasional glimpses in the Court Rolls of Hannington. Another son, John, who was ordained (1350) by the Bishop of Hereford, afterwards became Vicar of Acton Turville in the neighbourhood of Castle Combe :

“Institution of John Playstede Priest presented by William Horseley, keeper of the Church at Tormestone to the Church of Acton Torvyle, in dio: Worcester on 5th December, 1373.”

Sede Vacante Register: Worcester, Fol. 1664.

The Manor of Hannington, forming part of the Lordship of Castle Combe, is near the old town of Highworth in North Wilts, which was a royal demesne in the Domesday Survey. The village of Hannington, where the country rolls down to the infant Thames, is a delightful place, built in the form of the letter Y. Its Church dates from the far-off days of Thomas and Robert Pleistede: some parts remain to-day as they were then. There is a thirteenth-century nave with later windows, a coeval doorway on the north and two lancet windows, and a fourteenth-century south porch with a curious niche in its east wall, reminiscent of a similar feature in the Chapel at Haselbury. The tower and chancel are fifteenth-century work. In this pleasant neighbourhood the descendants of Thomas Pleistede resided, until the decease of Richard Haleway and his wife Agnes brought the family again to Castle Combe and the name disappeared from Hannington.

A silent movement was then taking place in England of greater national importance than Magna Charta, and in effect more widely reaching, expressed in a desire for education among the better classes. For the first time since the Norman Conquest it was decreed that in the law courts and such schools as the country could boast the English language should be used. Thus the way was being prepared for the English Reformation. Learning was no longer to be tagged on to French culture. But the prejudice against education was not easily overcome. The House of Commons pleaded that no villein should be suffered to send his sons to school

"in order to advance them by clergy," to which edict Richard II had assented : "*Le Royle Veult.*" The manorial lord insisted upon the observance of his suzerain rights just as stubbornly as our grandfathers fought against the Education Bill of 1870. This tide of petty jealousy accounts for a passage in the records of the manor :

35 Edw. III (1362). "They present that . . . Ro. Plaisted has sons at School without the Lord's permission."
Manor Court Rolls of Hannington (Wilts).

Some years later a son, John (*fl.* 1355-1420), whose education had been the subject of this charge, can be identified as witnessing a document among the manorial muniments—15 Ric. II (1391), but little is known of his way of life. He evidently forsook the tradition of the staple industry to become a miller and brewer. One of his heirs and successors, Robert (*fl.* 1395-1450), decided upon the decease of Richard Haleway to return again to Castle Combe, where for the best part of a further century the family acquired a comfortable competence, some as master weavers and others as millers and brewers. The weaving industry was conducted on domestic lines, the weavers and their families working in their own homes, and disposing of their goods through the middle man.

LATER YEARS AT CASTLE COMBE

The outstanding figure of those days was John Playsted (*fl.* 1430-90) of Castle Combe, a son of Robert, described as "a faithful tenant of the lord," who seems to have acquired wealth as a brewer and as a master weaver. He achieved a record by breaking the assize of beer on innumerable occasions. To dispel unjust suspicions we may explain that these breaches of manorial legislation were an almost unavoidable necessity. It was a recognised thing that in one direction or another the brewer was obliged to break the assize. If he brewed before the lord's tenants had sold their stock, or sold before the Church Ale was cleared out, if he "sold forthadores in cornes (drinking horns)," or failed to observe the innumerable manorial restrictions governing

brewing and selling, John was fined 3*d.* at the court, except on the few occasions when it happened to be 6*d.*

In such fines may be discerned the genesis of modern taxation. They were not unlike the sale of public indulgences or pardons. In effect they were a local revenue tax. The system of pardons current in the Middle Ages regarded the privileges and exemptions of religious houses as renewable rights, involving the necessity of a periodical pardon, with the customary accompanying fine. Similarly the brewer paid his privilege fee to the Court Leet for having broken an assize so complicated that breaches of the constitution were inevitable.

Although most of these impositions were inflicted in the lord's interest and for the profit of his exchequer, certain enactments of manorial law were for the promotion of general peace and good government. The official of the court was no more popular than the modern revenue man. He frequently needed higher protection. It was repeatedly enjoined upon the tenants of the lordship concerning the reeve or bailiff that "none should assault him at his duty nor curse him." The same John Playsted so often fined for breaking the assize sometimes required protection himself in course of his public duty, as the following extracts testify :

"That Thomas Tailour against the peace of the lord king made an attack on John Plaisted with a bill."

21st April, 1456.

"That John James made an attack upon John Plaistowe with a dagger, fine of 3*d.* and forfeits the dagger to the lord valued 4*d.*"

26th September, 1460.

"That Nicholas Skidmore made an attack upon John Pleystede, fine 3*d.*"

12th May, 1479.

Court Rolls of Castle Combe : Addl. Char. 18486-8.

These proceedings related to the public peace, the impounding of stray cattle, the removal of nuisances, and the incidentals of local government which were an everlasting friction. The enforcement of law and order frequently led to a general fray, when knives or swords were drawn with

angry words, followed by an appearance before the manor court with the consequent disciplinary proceedings.

We may follow the progress of John Playsted in a fashion by the frequency of his appearance in the manor court. He was probably born about 1430, married a wife Joan towards the middle of the century, then in riper years appeared to present his son Robert (*fl.* 1450–1520) for the occupation of a tenement in the Nethertowne. The entry gives just a bare outline, leading us to imagine it was the occasion when Robert was taking unto himself a wife, whose name with maidenly modesty remains unknown :

“ And upon this came Robert Pleystede and gives to the lord a fine of xls., to pay in manner and form following to wit xxs. this day and xxs. to the Feast of Hock-Tide . . . to have and to hold all the said tenement, cottage, curtilage, with its appertinences to the aforesaid John and Joan his wife and Robert the son of the same and for the term of their lives according to the customs of the manor.”

Court Rolls of Castle Combe. Court held 21st October, 1474. Addl. Char. 18488, m. 5.

Four years later Robert was assessed 11*d.* for poll tax. In the year 1487 his occupation of the same tenement, etc., was confirmed by the Court. At that court also John Playsted and Richard Holwey were elected to the office of *cadavaratores*, which is interpreted as “ vewers of flesche and other vitealls,” in the manorial meat market. The butcher no less than the brewer was strictly controlled. In the season of Lent, when the eating of meat was forbidden, his trade was restricted to provide only licensed sick people. Among other things the butcher might not permit gambling for meat in his shop : “ *poena quilibet eorum vjs. viijd.*” In the years 1488 and 1490 both John and Robert break the assize of beer, then their names occur no longer in the Court Rolls of Castle Combe, leaving us to presume that John died soon afterwards, while Robert and his household sought fresh pastures elsewhere.

Our searches in the returns for taxation or war service, which included the responsible adult population of the country, failed to discover any further examples of the name in Wilts, which might indicate descendants established else-

where. This was confirmed by an extensive examination of register transcripts for the Diocese of Salisbury. Although these commence in 1540, the name of Plaisted is not evident except in such parishes as were linked with Castle Combe. The last representative there was one Nicholas Plastez, of whom nothing is known except that in 1535-6 he is found among the *jurates* for the manor court. The entire absence of any mention of the family in the early registers for Castle Combe confirms the conclusion that the male issue failed early in the sixteenth century, when the name disappeared from local history.

The Church at Castle Combe deserves remembrance before we follow the dispersion of the Pleystede family to Mildenhall, Westbury-on-Severn, and New England, for within the Church is the altar tomb of Walter de Dunstanville (*d.* 1270), with its effigy in complete chain armour and blazoned shield, and in the churchyard many generations of the Pleystede family are at rest. Their memorials are perished with them, not a single inscription has survived the storms of passing centuries. The pulpit was once tenanted by Bishop Latimer, who was rector (1530-35) of the neighbouring parish of West Kington. Most of the present Church has been extensively restored and rebuilt. Only the fine tower, with its beautiful stone-vaulted ceiling of fan tracery, now remains of the Church of the Middle Ages. On the eastern face of the tower there still appears a weaver's shuttle, shears, and other implements of the cloth worker, indicating that it stands as a memorial to the departed glory of a Cloth Trade Guild associated with the staple industry in the ancient parish of Castle Combe.

EXODUS TO MILDENHALL

In the Tudor period which was then just dawning, a great revolution took place in the social system of this country. The old order was passing away, not by chance or design, but through certain profound changes affecting the habits of the people. The emancipation from the serfdom of feudal allegiance, the rise of an educated and active-minded middle class, the growth of national pride, the development of commercial habits, and the discovery of a New World,

all combined to dissolve the fabric of mediæval society and to facilitate the migration of the population.

We cannot say what circumstances induced Robert Pleystede to leave Castle Combe. It might have been a succession of dry years on the Cotswolds with a scarcity of water power, or Robert may have followed the tendency of trade to seek more favourable conditions of manufacture and distribution. One thing about which no doubt exists is that by degrees trade migrated from Castle Combe to the lower valley of the Avon or the Kennet, and to Gloucestershire, where water power was more abundant, and with it went the masters and artificers who formed the enterprising part of the population. The later Court Rolls of Castle Combe make frequent mention of fulling mills converted into grist mills, a significant indication that the prosperity of the staple had departed. The poverty of water power also drove the milling trade farther afield. In the opening years of the sixteenth century, or possibly sooner, Robert bade farewell to the home of his fathers and established himself at Mildenhall, to the north-east of Wilts, within a short distance of Marlborough.

The removal to Mildenhall was not entirely an adventure into the unknown world, for Robert's new home was still within the Liberty of Castle Combe. There had always been a fair amount of traffic between the two places, which are about twenty miles apart, and the change of tenancy must have been negotiated before the transfer took place.

Through Mildenhall, which to the ancients was Cunetio, a Roman road ran from Bath to Silchester and thence to London. This track was crossed by another from Winchester which, fording the Kennet at Mildenhall, joined the Ermine Street near Stratton St. Margaret and proceeded to Cirencester, a centre whence further roads radiated over the West Country and across the Severn. As the traveller proceeds eastward from Marlborough there breaks upon his view the Kennet, which flows glistening out of the town through the meadows beneath, and meandering along by Polton Mill reaches at length Mildenhall, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles north-east of the town. The village lies on the outskirts of the Savernake Forest. It is by far the most interesting

place in the neighbourhood of Marlborough. The Manor of Polton had been part of the lordship of Castle Combe since the Conquest, when the Wiltshire manors which descended to Walter de Dunstanville were held by Humphrey de Insula. Both Great and Little Polton farms continued to pay quit rent to the lords of Castle Combe down to the seventeenth century. At Mildenhall the volume of the Kennet is increased by the River Og, providing a strong head of water such as a miller loves, and on the bank of that stream Robert established himself in the early dawn of the sixteenth century.

We discover the first traces of Robert Pleystede at Stot-tyscombe or Stitchcombe, which was an ancient water mill in the parish of Mildenhall. At a view of Frankpledge held 11th April, 4 Henry VIII (1513), Robert was admitted a copyholder of the manor in the following terms :

“ To this court Robert Pleystede came and took of the lord one messuage with half a virgate of land with the appurtenances, formerly in the tenure of Edmund Paryor, to have to him and his son for the term of their lives and the longest liver of them according to the custom of the manor, by the rent and service therefore before due and of right accustomed. And gave to the lord for a fine xiijs. iiij*d*. And gave for a heriot 6*s*. 8*d*. ”

Mildenhall (Wilts) Court Roll, General Series 208, No. 64, last membrane.

Subsequent history suggests that the unnamed son of the above extract was John Pleystede, who had been born at Castle Combe. Both John and his younger brother William migrated with their father to Mildenhall. The Subsidy Roll for 1524 gives the names of John, Robert II, and Thomas as living at Stitchcombe, suggesting that Robert I was then deceased. It also seems evident that John was the elder, while Robert and Thomas were his sons. In Mildenhall on the same Subsidy Roll we find William and a son John. These names appear again some years later in the Muster Roll for Wilts, with the exception of Thomas, who meanwhile had removed to Westbury-on-Severn, where his name is included in the Muster Roll for Gloucester, 26 Henry VIII (1534-5). A few years later Thomas was admitted a copy-

holder of the Manor of Rodley in the parish of Westbury-on-Severn, and to his line we shall make reference elsewhere.

The elder branch at Mildenhall after the decease of Robert II lived in regular succession at the house known as Werg or Withigg, a place-name of Saxon origin, which for centuries was the principal cloth mill in the neighbourhood. Stitchcombe Mill, where Robert I and II had been established, afterwards passed to the younger branch of the family, and was occupied by John the younger, a descendant of the above William. Of the subsequent history of these mills we have no knowledge, except that as water mills they have long been disused. Durnford Mill, which was the birthplace of Roger II (*b.* 1624), who married Olive Coleman and joined the Pilgrim Fathers in New England, is now the only one in regular service, and for generations it has been a flour mill.

The successors of Robert at Mildenhall were devoted to the staple. They were not farmers of the land except to the extent of providing their own needs. But a new element was appearing in the trade. The old system had been to employ domestic weavers, working at home. Clothiers were now setting up looms in their own houses, where a factory was established in miniature, and journeymen weavers were employed. Men were being forced from the position of free masters into that of hired servants, or their payment was cut down by the competition of the journeyman. A skilled weaver during the Commonwealth considered himself well paid at 1s. a day without food. Forty years later there was a general slump in wages. A member of the House of Commons in 1680 bemoaned the fact that the current rate of wages in England prevented the competition of this country with the products of Indian labour. In Norwich and Leeds sixpence a day was all that could then be earned by skilled workers at the loom. The practice of setting children prematurely to work, often at five and six years of age, was common to an enormous extent. Yet those were the "good old days" often idealised by people who write glibly enough of the things about which they know nothing whatever.

One remarkable feature about the family at Mildenhall is

shown in the persistence of the name Robert. The records begin and end with a son of that name, although he is not always the first-born. If we possessed a more complete account of the generations at Castle Combe, we would expect similar evidence there in looking backward. It is certain that traditional names have always had a tremendous influence with parents when christening their children, and reason would conclude that the tradition of Robert has persisted since those far-off days of Robert de Plessitis or de Pleistede, son of Sir John du Plessis, just as the elder branch of the same family continued the name Hugh de Plessitis or de Plecy. In the same way Sir John seems perpetuated in the constant recurrence of the name John. We have already observed that the name Maudett, which appears twice in the table for Mildenhall, was the family name of the branch which succeeded Sir John du Plessis in the Earldom of Warwick.

The wills reproduced in this volume are not given *verbatim*, but the attached references indicate where the originals may be found. Such wills as have been printed are shortened to set out mainly genealogical details, while those which possess typical features or peculiar terminology are transcribed with more fullness. These things reflect the outlook of the testator and provide enlightening material for study. They present an instructive picture of their daily lives, details of their trade, the inventories of their houses, their manner of dress, and their intermarriage with other walks of life. Mediæval wills frequently contained a confession of faith, but they seldom revealed the value of an estate, which in the examples before us was rarely of considerable amount. In those days the actual money in circulation was very limited, while the only bankers were private individuals. Much business was done by exchange and barter, and the purchasing power of sterling was far greater than in our own time.

Attached to the will of Elizabeth Pleysted of Mildenhall (1636) is a probate which gives the following values :

“ Twoe kine £4 ; three score and thirtie sheepe £7 8s. 8d. ; two pigges 8s. ; 4 hennes and a Cocke 2s. 6d. Corne in the barne £5 ; etc. Sum £37 2s. 2d.”

To arrive at the approximate worth of Elizabeth's legacies in their modern monetary equivalent the stated amount should be multiplied by about twelve. Deflation of the currency, which people deplore as a pernicious modern evil, has been the trend all down the ages, from the workman in the early dawn of industry in England, who considered himself sufficiently remunerated with a penny a day, down to our own time when 5s. a day is regarded as a pittance.

The main fabric of Mildenhall Church still stands as it would have appeared when Robert worshipped there in the Middle Ages. It is a fine example of mediæval architecture, with a nave of the twelfth, a tower and aisles of the thirteenth, a clerestory and chancel of the fifteenth century. The clerestory and roof of the nave were restored in the sixteenth century, when a third storey was added to the tower. Such works are the most pleasing monument to the piety of the past. Walking through any cemetery to-day in the suburbs of a large city, and observing the marble mausoleums to the great departed, we are thoroughly convinced that the facts are all in favour of our forefathers, who left their noblest memorials in the churches they provided for their unborn children.

CHILTON FOLIAT AND HUNGERFORD

In the reign of James I, the Plaisted family spread from Mildenhall to the neighbouring parish of Chilton Foliat, by the marriage of Robert Plaisted to Jane Morgan. This event evidently took place about the time when there was some failure in the ancient prosperity of Stitchcombe. Three years later we find John IV and William his brother abandoning their home at Mildenhall and also removing to Chilton Foliat. The mediæval isolation of the villages was being broken down by the troubled times of the Stuarts, and these disturbances, with the consequent distress of a Civil War (1642-6), produced immense dislocation and dissatisfaction which was further aggravated by war profiteers of low social standing. Then followed the usual aftermath of strife: poverty and unemployment, religious intolerance and the feverish spirit of restlessness. In these conditions many people, such as Roger II, turned their minds to the new

settlements overseas, where self-governing and industrial communities were springing up, full of endless promise for the future, and free from the political intrigues and religious restrictions which were clumsy attempts to make people good by force.

There are several monuments in the Church at Chilton Foliat to the Pophams, who were the great people of that place, but none to the Plaisted family. One of the best things in the Church is a beautiful little Jacobean screen, belonging to those earlier days before the Commonwealth, when much affection was lavished on the internal decoration of parish churches. John Plaisted IV was churchwarden of Chilton Foliat in 1612, and his younger brother Robert in 1630-32. The old font in which those generations were baptised may now be seen at Southwick.

The mill at Werg continued in the occupation of Edward Plaisted (1620-81) until his decease, when it passed into the hands of strangers, as the mill at Durnford had done some years previously when Roger II departed for New England. These changes were part of a general drift of the family to new homes in other directions. It coincided also with a diminishing number of children in the male succession. Two or three generations lingered on at Chilton Foliat and Mildenhall, but the main stream of heredity was transferred to Hungerford, where a further century of history unfolded itself in somewhat different circumstances.

One contemporary of the above Edward was John (1616-98), eldest son of Edward the elder of Werg, who died in possession of the "Three Tuns and Crowne . . . on the south side of the High Street in Marlborough," although at that time John was not the occupant. This property afterwards passed to his "daughter Mary, wife of Richard Symonds, of Marlborough, Apothecary," with the remainder of his estate. The tide of chance which carried Roger II to New England also brought Robert IV to London, where he flourished as an inn keeper in the parish of St. Andrew's, Holborn, and died 1644, leaving no family. His will has been reproduced with others in this volume. The lure of London existed from very early days. We have not yet made a complete tabular account of the Plaisted family in London

because there was no great continuity of association such as existed in rural districts. We find in the metropolis offshoots from all the country branches, and to some extent we have ranged them into their order of succession, but at present it is an unfinished task, which some day may be made more perfect.

EXTRACTS FROM THE COURT ROLLS OF
CASTLE COMBE, CO. WILTS

Court Baron held on Friday, 2nd January, 1349.

Touching a plea Nich. Gylon Compl. Henr. Pleistede defend.
but since the last court Henry Pleistede had died.

Touching a plea of debt as above.

Henry Playstede and Alicia his wife held a cottage with curtilage for his lifetime from the lord of the manor.

Thomas Pleistede & Matilda his wife held one messuage & virgate of land.

Addl. Char. 18466 (1-10) membrane 2.

Court held on Monday, 2nd August, 1349.

Mentioned in various pleas :

Ric. Atte Pleistede 1349

Ric. Pleistede 1350

Ric. Pleystede 1351

Ric. & Robt. Pleystude 1373

Addl. Char. 18467 (1-8).

Court of Frankpledge held on Thursday, 21st December, 1374.

Rich. Playtude held one messuage & 2½ virgates of land, one cottage & 2 Mondayslands, ½ virgate of land called Wellehous for his lifetime, 1 virgate of land called Casely, one mill, one parcel of land called Shaldelegghforlangs etc.

Addl. Char. 18469 (1-7), m. 1.

Court held Friday, 6th September, 1420.

Robert Cogeler held of the lord one messuage and virgate with appertinences called Playstedes.

Addl. Char. 18476, m. 24.

This day came Richard Haleway and Agnes his wife and took of the lord one messuage and virgate of land, called Pleystedes mulle also one fulling mill with appertinences called Pleystedes mulle and one acre of wood which Robert Cogeler & Agnes formerly held, for the term of their lives. They give to the lord a fine of £20, etc.

Court held 1st October, 1422.

Thomas Deverell the reversion of one cottage with apper-
tinences called Pleystedes after the death of Agnes his wife for his
life time. Paid to the lord a fine 20/-.

Addl. Char. 18478, m. 1 verso.

Court held 28th April, 1446.

To this court came John Oldelond and gives to the lord a fine of
40/- for a reversion for holding one cottage with a garden border-
ing called Playsters that Thomas Dewrell (Deverell) in manner
holds for the term of his life and Isabella his wife and Agnes their
daughter, according to the custom of the manor.

Addl. Char. 18479, m. 22 verso.

Court held 21st April, 1456.

. . . That Thomas Tailour against the peace of the lord king
made an attack on John Plaisted with a bill.

Addl. Char. 18486, m. 1.

Court held 26th September, 1460.

. . . That John James made an attack upon John Plaistowe
with a dagger, fine of 3*d.* and forfeits the dagger to the lord
valued 4*d.*

Addl. Char. 18486, m. 12.

Court held 12th April, 1464.

Tasters of ale came and present that John Playsted brewer
broke the assise and fine 3*d.*

Addl. Char. 18487, m. 6 verso.

Court held 8th October, 1464.

. . . And that Thomas Playsted has . . . at Goldyngesclyf
broken and bad repair in that his has a fine of 3*d.*

Addl. Char. 18487, m. 7 verso.

Court held 20th October, 1466.

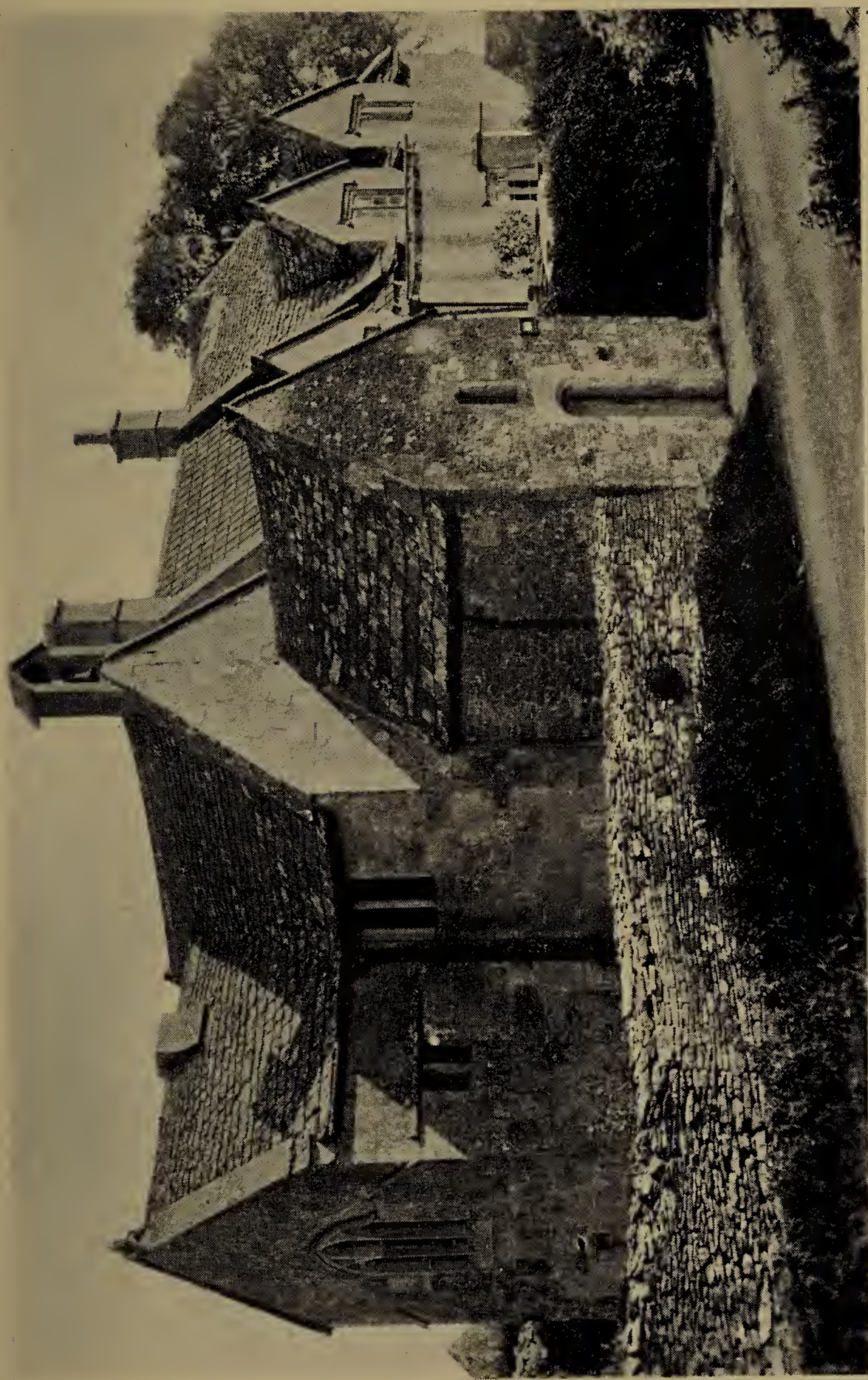
Joan Benet held from the lord one cottage with curtilage
formerly of Roger Lorewey one house formerly the bakehouse of
the manor, one house called Musthouse, one house called Wyne-
house formerly of Richard Playstred. . . .

Addl. Char. 18487, m. 12.

Court held Monday, 20th October, 1466.

Tasters of ale the same came and present that John Playsted
brewer broke the assise and fine 3*d.*

Addl. Char. 18487, m. 12.



From a recent photograph

THE PLAISTED CHAPEL AT HAZELBURY, WILTS

Court held 4th May, 1467.

Tasters of ale sworn from office, present that John Playsted brewer broke the assise fine 3*d*.

Addl. Char. 18487, m. 12 verso.

Court held Monday, 17th October, 1467.

Tasters of ale the same sworn from office, present that John Playsted brewer broke the assise for selling beer, fine 3*d*.

Addl. Char. 18487, m. 12 verso.

Court held Thursday next after the feast of Peter and Paul, 30th June, 1468.

Tasters of ale the same came and present that John Playstede brewer broke the assise and fine 6*d*.

Addl. Char. 18487, m. 13.

Court held 24th October, 1468.

Poll tax—John Playstede 11*d*.

Addl. Char. 18487, m. 14.

Court held 31st January, 1469.

Tasters of ale the same came and present that John Playstede brewer broke the assise and fine 3*d*.

Addl. Char. 18487, m. 15 verso.

Court held 17th August, 1469.

The same Thomas (Haynes) plaintiff against John Pleystede of a plea of debt a candlestick valued xij*d*.

Addl. Char. 18487, m. 16 verso.

Court held 26th October, 1469.

Poll tax—John Pleystede 11*d*. = 2*d*.
is pledged William Smyth.

Addl. Char. 18488, m. 11.

Court held 29th October, 1472.

Tasters of ale the same came and present that John Pleystede brewer broke the assise and fine 3*d*.

Addl. Char. 18488, m. 2.

Court held 2nd December, 1473.

Tasters of ale the same came and present that John Pleystede brewer broke the assise and fine 3*d*.

Addl. Char. 18488, m. 4.

Court held 21st October, 1474.

. . . And upon this came Robert Pleystede and gives to the lord a fine xls., to pay in manner and form following to wit xxs. this day and xxs. to the feast of Hock-Tide to hold the aforesaid tenement, cottage, curtilage and with its appertinences to have and to hold all the said tenement, cottage, curtilage, with its appertinences to the aforesaid John and Joan his wife and Robert the son of the same and for the term of their lives according to the customs of the manor. . . .

Addl. Char. 18488, m. 5.

Court held 3rd November, 1475.

Tasters of ale the same sworn came and present that John Pleystede brewer broke the assise, fine 3d.

Addl. Char. 18488, m. 7.

Court held 28th October, 1478.

Poll tax—Robert Pleysted—11d.
name not sworn for Poll tax.

Addl. Char. 18488, m. 12.

Court held 12th May, 1479.

. . . And that Nicholas Skidmore made an attack upon John Pleystede, fine 3d.

Addl. Char. 18488, m. 14 verso.

Court held 18th October, 1481.

. . . John Pleystede a faithful tenant of John Scrope Esq., son and heir of Stephen Scrope in the presence of John Fitsjames chief steward (on roll of tenants).

Addl. Char. 18489, m. 1.

Court held 20th April, 1483.

Tasters of ale the same came and present that John Pleysted brewer broke the assise and fine 3d.

Addl. Char. 18489, m. 3.

Court held 20th December, 1487.

Tasters of ale the same came and present that John Playsted brewer broke the assise and fine 3d.

Addl. Char. 18489, m. 4.

Court held 20th December, 1487.

. . . To this court came John Pleystede, Joan his wife and Robert their son and took from the lord one tenement, one

cottage, with its appertinences situated and lying in le Neder-towne the reversion of a garden the same after death to surrender without forfeit to Philip Love, that the aforesaid garden Philip held for his life time according to the custom of the manor. To have and to hold the tenement and cottage for their life time for a rent and service to wit for the said tenement and cottage xiiij*d.* for the aforesaid garden xxis. From a covenant in manner held, to give to the lord a fine for the said tenement and cottage vis. viij*d.* . . .

Addl. Char. 18489, m. 4.

Court held 20th December, 1487.

. . . And John Pleysted and Henry Holwey elected to the office of Cadavaratores.

Addl. Char. 18489, m. 4 *verso*.

Court held 8th May, 1488.

Tasters of ale the same came and present that John Pleystede brewer broke the assise, fine 6*d.*

Addl. Char. 18489, m. 5 *verso*.

Court held 9th October, 1488.

Tasters of ale the same came and present that Robert Pleystede brewer broke the assise, fine 3*d.*

Addl. Char. 18489, m. 5.

Court held 29th April, 1490.

Tasters of ale the same present that John Playstede brewer has broken the assise fine 3*d.*

Addl. Char. 18489, m. 6 *verso*.

Court held 22nd March, 1535.

Nicholas Plasted, one of 12 jurors.

Addl. Roll 18496, m. 6.

Court held 10th October, 1535.

Nicholas Plastez, one of 12 Jurors.

Addl. Roll 18496, m. 7.

Court held 23rd April, 1536.

Nicholas Plyster, one of 12 Jurors.

Addl. Roll 18496, m. 7 *verso*.

EXTRACTS FROM THE COURT ROLLS OF
MILDENHALL, CO. WILTS

*View of frank pledge with court of the manor held there 13th October,
4 Henry VIII (1512).*

That Robert Playstede is the miller there and takes excessive toll, therefore he is in mercy 6*d*.

Robert Pleystede is one of the jurors.

John Stephyns and Robert Playstede are elected constables.

*View of frank pledge with court of the manor held 11th April,
4 Henry VIII (1513).*

That Robert Pleystede is the miller and takes excessive toll, and is in mercy 6*d*.

Robert Pleystede is one of the jurors.

To this court Robert Pleystede came and took of the lord one messuage with half a virgate of land with the appurtenances, formerly in the tenure of Edmund Paryor, to have to him and his son for the term of their lives and the longest liver of them according to the custom of the manor, by the rent and service therefore before due and of right accustomed. And gave to the lord for a fine xiiij' iiiij*d*.

And gave for a heriot 6*s*. 8*d*.

Court Roll, General Series 208, No. 64, last membrane.

THE PARISH REGISTERS OF WILTS AND BERKS

EXTRACTS FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS OF CO. WILTS

MILDENHALL

Baptism.

- 1562. Faith, d. of Robert Plasted.
- 1564. Jone, d. of Robert Plaster.
- 1566. Edward Plaster, s. of Robert Plaster.
- 1569. Johann, d. of Robert Plaisted.
- 1571. Madith, s. of Robert Plaister.
- 1572. Alice, d. of Robert Plaister.
- 1574. Madith Plaister, s. of John Plaister the younger.
- 1575. Robert, s. of Robert Plaister.
- 1576. John, s. of John Plaister.
- 1578. Stephen, s. of Robert Plaister.
- 1579. Robert, s. of John Plaister.
- 1580. Roger, s. of John Plaister.
- 1582. Sicclie, d. of John Plaister.
- 1586. William, s. of John Plaister the younger.
- 1593. Alice Plasted, d. of Thomas Plasted.
- 1597. Ursula, d. of Thomas Plaister.
- 1598. Raphe, s. of Thomas Plaister.
- 1600. Agnis, d. of Thomas Plaister of Werg.
- 1600. Susanne, d. of Maudit Plaisted.
- 1602. Martha, d. of Thomas Plaisted of Werg.
- 1603. Joan, d. of Thomas Plaister of Werg.
- 1605. Christian, d. of John Plaisted the younger of Stitchcombe.
- 1606. Rafe & John, sons of Thomas Plaister of Werg.
- 1607. Thomas, s. of Thomas Plaister of Werg.
- 1608. John, s. of William Plaister of Swindon.
- 1609. Anne, d. of Mauditt Plaister of Durnsford Mill.
- 1610. Thomas, s. of William Plaisted of Stitchcombe.
- 1614. Alice, d. of Edward Plaister of Mildenhall.
- 1616. John, s. of Edward Plaisted of Mildenhall.
- 1620. Edward, s. of Edward Plaisted.
- 1620. Edward, s. of Robert Plaisted.
- 1622. ?, d. of Edward Playsted, Mildenhall.
- 1623. Gabriell, s. of Robert Playsted of Withigge.
- 1624. Roger, s. of Roger Playsted, Durnford Mill.
- 1626. Robert, s. of Robert Playsted of Withigge.

- 1628. Frances, d. of Robert Plaisted of Withigge.
- 1631. Ann, d. of Robert Plaisted of Withigge.
- 1634. Thomas, s. of Robert Plaisted.
- 1642. Thomas, s. of John and Ellenor Pleysted.
- 1643. Ann, d. of John and Ann Playsted.
- 1648. Roger, s. of Roger & Olef Plested.
- 1658. Francis, d. of Robert Pleasted.
- 1674. Susana, d. of William Pleystead & Susanna.
- 1675. Hannah, d. of William Pleystead & Susanna.
- 1679. Annabel, d. of William & Susanna Playsteed.
- 1684. John Pleystead, s. of William & Susanna Playsteed.

Marriage.

- 1561. John Plaster & Elizabeth Boscar.
- 1569. William Scorge & Elizabeth Plaster.
- 1573. John Plaster & Alice Snow.
- 1580. Philip Lawrence & Edith Plaster.
- 1595. Thomas Plasted & Edith Boscar.
- 1597. Edward Plaster & Ellin Lovelocke.
- 1598. William Jopart(?) & Alice Plaster of Werg.
- 1608. John Cryer of Swindon to Edith Plaster, d. of John Plaster of Stitchcombe.
- 1613. Maudith Plaster & Elizabeth Boscar.
- 1655. John Pleastead & Joan Bosier.
- 1749. Joseph Plaisted of Marlborough & May Bradfield of the same.

Burial.

- 1561. William Plaster s. of John Plaster.
- 1565. Joyce Plaster d. of Robert Plaster.
- 1576. John Plaster.
- 1594. Susan Plasted wife of Thomas Plasted.
- 1605. Martha Plasted of Werg.
- 1606. March 11th. John Pleysted s. of Thomas & Edith Pleysted, and Raphe his brother upon the 21st of the fore-sayd month.
- 1606. Ursula Plaster d. of Edward Plaster, Werg.
- 1612. Thomas Playsted of Withigge.
- 1613. Ellinor Playsted wife of Edward Playsted, Mildenhall.
- 1624. Edward Playsted of Mildenhall.
- 1627. Mauditt Playsted of Mildenhall.
- 1628. Jane d. of Edith Playsted of Withigge, widow.
- 1636. Elizabeth Playsted, widow.
- 1644. Ed. Plaisted, of Werg, widow.
- 1645. Ann Playsted d. of Robert & Alice Playsted of Werg.
- 1654. Robert Playstead of Werg.
- 1657. Allis Playstead, widow.
- 1657. Thomas Plasto.

- 1665. Ann d. of William Playstead.
- 1666. Jane Playstead, widow.
- 1667. William Playstead s. of George Playstead.
- 1668. Ellinor Plaisto widow of George Plaisto.
- 1669. George Plaisto, senior.
- 1675. Frances d. of William and Susan Plaistow.
- 1678. John s. of William and Susanna Plaistow.

CHILTON FOLIAT

These Registers commence in 1530, with unbroken sequence during the Commonwealth period. The earliest book is somewhat decayed at the edge, and is illegible in places. The first Plaisted entry occurs in 1605. The family disappears towards the end of the seventeenth century.

- 1605, May 2. Robert Playsted married Jane Morgan.
- 1605, May 16. Ursula Playsted was baptized.
- 1605, The daughter of ? Playsted & Joan was buried.
- 1607, Feb. 14. Anna Plaisted d. of Robert Plaisted & Jane his wife baptized.
- 1609, July 30. Anna Plaisted, d. of John Playstead & Christian his wife Bapt.
- 1610, Sept. 6. Robert, s. of Robert Plaisted & Jane his wife bapt.
- 1612, April 27. Jane, d. of Robert Plaisted & Jane his wife bapt.
- 1613, Nov. 28. John, s. of John Plaisted and of Christian his wife bapt.
- 1613, Mar. 20. John, s. of Robert & Jane Playstead bapt.
- 1616, Nov. 10. Mary, d. of John Playstead & Christian bapt.
- 1616, Mar. 19. Francis, s. of Robert Playstead & Jane bapt.
- 1617, Mar. 11. Henry s. of Thos. Playsted & Elizth. bapt.
- 1617, Nov. 13. Buried John Playsted the younger.
- 1617, Dec. 21. Buried John Plaisted the elder.
- 1620, Feb. 13. was bapt. Elizth d. of William Plaisted & Margaret.
- 1620, Nov. 20. Stephen, s. of William Plaisted & Mary was bapt.
- 1622, June 27. Thomas Pain married Christian Plaisted.
- 1624, Nov. 30. was buried Alice Playstead.
- 1628, April 27. Bapt. son of William Plaisted & Margaret.
- 1630. (Mention of Robert Plaisted as Churchwarden.)
- 1636. Jane, d. of Robert Plaisted & Sarah bapt.
- 1636, Mar. 6. was buried Stephen Plaisted.
- 1639, Sept. 15. Bapt. Anne, d. of Robert & Sarah Plaisted.
- 1645, Oct. 26. Bapt. John ye son of Francis Plaisted & Elizth., his wife.
- 1654, Dec. 21. Buried Jane Plasteed widow.
- 1658, Feb. 22. Buried Elizth. Plaisted widow.

- 1657, Jan. 17. Robert Plasted & Sarah Bewgig (?) widow married.
 1673, Nov. 5. Susan, d. of Robert Plaisted bapt.
 1676, Nov. 5. Hannah, d. of Robert Plaisted bapt.
 1676, Nov. 5. Sarah, d. of Robert Plasted bapt.
 1682, Mar. 26. Elizth. d. of Robert Pleasted & Joane bapt.
 1684. Robert, s. of Robert & Joan bapt.
 1684, Dec. 31. Buryed Robert the son of Robert Pleaystead.
 John Plaisted Churchwarden in 1612 ; Robert Plaisted in 1632.

PRESHUTE

- 1647, July 5. William Cleft married Anne Plaister.
 1648, Mar. 25. Roger Playsted married Olive Coleman.

NORTH WRAXALL

- 1762, Nov. 19. Robert Plaisted married Mary May.
 Banns published at N. W. on Jan. 3, 10 and 17.

CHIPPENHAM

1686. Gabriel Plaister buried.
 1695. Ann Plaisted, widow, buried.
 1729, Feb. 4. John the son of John Plaisteed bapt.
 1740, Feb. 5. Francis Plaisted buried.

MARLBOROUGH

- 1668/9, Feb. 14. John Plaisted married Agnes Button.
 1755, Nov. 4. Joseph Plaistead of St. Mary's and Kath. Vivash of St. Peter's married by licence.
 1760, Oct. 13. Joseph Plaistead & Lydia Stebbs of St. Peter's married by licence.

EXTRACTS FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS OF CO. BERKS

HUNGERFORD

- 1636, Feb. 1. Robert, s. of Robert and Mary Playsted bapt.
 1644, July 30. Edward, s. of William Plestill bapt. (? possibly meant for Plester).
 1669, April 17. Elizabeth, d. of John Pleastead bapt.
 1670, Feb. 26. John, s. of John Plastow bapt.
 1670, Sept. 1. Francis Pleastow and Ann Banks married.
 1670, Oct. 22. Francis, son of Robberte Pleasted bapt.
 1671, Dec. 24. Robbert, s. of Robbert Pleastow bapt.
 1673, Nov. 25. William, s. of Robbert Pleastow buried.
 1675, ? Mary the wife of Robert Pleaster buried.
 1675, ? Heanrie the son of Francis Pleastew bapt. (illiterate scrawl).
 1678, April 7. Richard ye son of Robert Pleayster buried.
 1680, Mar. 18. Mary the daughter of Francis Pleysteed buried.
 1682, April 4. William Hobbs and Christian Playster, both of H., married.

- 1687, Sept. 25. The wife of Edward Playstead buried.
 1694, Mar. 9. John, s. of John & Sarah Playster bapt.
 1697, Feb. 25. Thomas, s. of John & Sarah Playstead bapt.
 1698, Jan. 7. Thomas, s. of John & Sarah Playster buried.
 1698, Jan. 23. Sarah, wife of John Playster buried.
 1699, Jan. 2. Mary, d. of Thomas & Jane Playster bapt.
 1699, April 4. John Playster & Mary Paty of Chilton married.
 1699, June 9. Thomas Playster & Jone Berry both of H. Married.
 1701, Mar. 9. Jone the wife of Thomas Playster buried.
 1701, Oct. 2. Francis Playster of H. & Jone Broadhouse of Kintbury married.
 1705, Jan. 15. John, s. of Francis & Jone Playster (? bapt.)
 1705, Feb. 1. John, s. of Francis & Jone Playster buried.
 1706, Aug. 3. Mary the wife of John Playster buried.
 1707, April 4. Edward Playster & Martha Price of H. Married.
 1706, Jan. 17. Mary d. of Francis & Jane Playster bapt.
 1706, Dec. 3. Robert, s. of Robert & Jane Playster bapt.
 1707, Hut and Susan Playstead both of H. married (illegible).
 1708, Mar. 26. Edward, s. of Edward & Martha Playstead bapt.
 1709, May 1. John, s. of Robert & Jane Playster bapt.
 1709, Nov. 27. Martha, d. of Edward & Martha Playstead bapt.
 1710, Jan. 20. Jane, d. of Robert & Jane Playstead bapt.
 1712, Aug. 24. William, s. of Edward & Martha bapt.
 1713, July 3. Richard, s. of Robert and Jane Playsted bapt.
 1715, Dec. 24. Francis, s. of Francis & Mary Playstead bapt.
 1716, Mar. 8. William, s. of Robert & Jane Playster bapt.
 1716, Aug. 16. Mary, d. of John & Mary Playster bapt.
 1717, Oct. 20. Mary, d. of Edward & Martha Playster bapt.
 1721, ? John, s. of John & Mary Playstead bapt.
 1727, Feb. 20. John Plasted buried.
 1728, Sept. 28. Elizabeth, d. of Robert Plasted buried.
 1731, Aug. 15. The daughter of Edward Plastow buried.
 1734, Sept. 2. Thomas Bear & Martha Playstead of H. Married.
 1735, Aug. 28. Joan the wife of Francis Plaster buried.
 1740, Dec. 25. Richard Playstead of Amesbury buried.
 1742, Aug. 28. Jane, d. of Robert Playstead buried.
 1754, Feb. 22. Mary the wife of John Playstead of Chilton Foliat buried.
 1757, Sept. 24. George Playstead buried.
 1758, Nov. 3. Martha Playstead widow buried.
 1763, April 22. William Playstead buried.
 1776, July 22. Robert Playstead & Mary Wise married by banns.
 1781, Oct. 9. Robert Plaistead buried.
 1791, April 3. Edward Plaster buried.

ABSTRACTS AND ADMINISTRATIONS OF WILLS, WILTS AND BERKS

*Nuncupative Will of John Plaister of Cherington, Co. Wilts, Miller,
Dated 15th January, 1603*

(A few lines and difficult to read.)

The only reference to his family name is " saving that my sonne Stephen Playster shall have " etc.

Proved in the respective Courts of the Archdeacon's Wills at Somerset House, London.

*Will of Thomas Playsted of Mildenhall, Co. Wilts, Dated 16th
March, 1607*

In the name of God Amen. In the 16th daye of Marche and in the fourthe yere of the Reigne of our Sovereigne Lord James by the grace of God kinge of Great Britayne ffrance and Ireland defender of the Faith &c. I Thomas Plasted of Withigg in the parish of Mildenhall in the Countie of Wilts being sicke in bodye but of good understanding and perfect memorye (thankes be to God) therefore do ordayne my last will and testament in manner and forme followeing ffirst with a free harte and willinge mynde I yealde and render my soule into the handes of Almightye god my Creator who of his endless goodness gave me beyng of his infinite mercy purchased redeme me from synne and Sathan by the precious bloud shedding of his deare sonne and my aloane Savyoure Jesus Xpriste in whose only meritte is my last repose and confidence And my bodye to be buryed in Xpistian buryall in the Churchyarde of the parishe of Mildenhall

Item I give and bequeathe unto my eldest daughter Alice Plasted the somme of three score poundes to be payed in manner and forme folowinge that is to say at or uppon the feaste of the Annunciation of the blessed virgin Marye which shalbe in the yere of oure Lord god according to the computation of the Church of England 1614 the somme of tenne poundes. And at the feaste of Sainte Michaell tharchangell which shalbe in the same yere 1614 the like somme of Tenne poundes and at each of those two feastes in the next (?) yeares then following, viz :— 1615 and in the year 1616 the like somme of tenne poundes untill the full somme of three score poundes be fullie satisfied (yf the sayed Alice so longe shall live).

Item: I give unto my Daughters Agnes Plasted Martha Plasted and Jane Plasted to each of them Tenne poundes to be payed at their severall dayes of mariage (yf they so longe shall live or at the daye of the mariage of my nowe wife Edith Plasted).

Item I give unto the poore of the parish of Mildenhall ten shillings. And unto the poore of the parish of Preshott I give sixe shillings.

The rest of all my goods and chattels I give and bequethe unto my wife Edithe whom I do make my sole executrix of this my last will and testament.

THOMAS PLASTED.

Reade signed sealed and published in the presence of us

CHRISTOPHER LEE THOMAS BENET notarye public.

EDWARD PLASTED.

Probate made in London to Edithe Plasted.

(Somerset House, London, 67 Capell.)

*Abstract of Will of Maudett Pleysted of Mildenhall, Co. Wilts,
Dated 24th November, 1627*

(Written in past tense throughout.)

Gave to Steven Pleysted his brother £5 due to Alice Foxott 20s. to Aalice Pleysted his servant, viz. :—6s. 8d., to be paid to her when she come to be at one and twentie years ould, to Edward Pleysted sonn of Robert Pleysted four shillings to be paid at the same age, the rest of his goods and chattels he gave and bequeathed to Elizabeth his wife who he made sole Executrix of this his last Will and Testament.

Witness: ANN HUT.

The mark X of Alice Pleysted.

Probate made 30th November, 1627.

Inventory of farm stock, implements &c. Sum between £40 and £50.

*Abstract of Will of Elizabeth Pleysted of Mildenhall, Co. Wilts,
Widow, Dated 20th November, 1636*

Gives to poor of parish of Mildenhall 2s. ; towards the reparations of the parish church of Mildenhall 1s. Gives to Brother-in-law Steven Pleysted 20s. ; to John Bowshere 20s. to Robert Bowshere 20s. ; to Amie Cook 20s. ; which three last mentioned are the children of my brother Wm. Bowshere.

Also gives to Wm. Bowshere 20s. ; to John Bowshere the younger 20s. ; to Marie Bowshere 20s. ; to Emma Bowshere 20s. ; " which fower last are the children of my Brother John Bowshere " ;

Also gives to Catherine Bowshere daughter of my brother John Bowshere 40s. ; also to my sister Marie Bowshere 20s. ; also to Thomas Pleysted 20s. ; to Ann Whithead 20s. ; to Martha Eliot 20s. " which five are the children of my sister Edith Pleysted."

Also I give to Richard Bowshere the sonne of John Bowshere of Broadhinton 20s. and one brasse pott ; also to John Pleysted, Edward Pleysted, Alice Pleysted widow 20s. to be equally divided amongst them.

Also I give Ann Nut my sister 6s. 8d. ; also to Edith Dorothie and Elizabeth Hut (or Nut) the daughters of my sister Ann Nut fifteen shillings to be equally divided amongst them.

Also to Robert Pleysted the sonn of my sister Edith Pleysted 5s. Also I forgive the said Robert Pleysted and John Bowsher the son of my Brother Wm. Bowsher all that they owe me.

Also gives to Ann Lawrence 5s. ; to Thos. Whitehead 5s. ; to John Clack 12d. ; to Marie the wife of Thos. Alexander (?) 5s. ; to Juliam Plummer one good ewe shepe. To Prudence Cook one good ewe shepe : to Alice Bowshere the daughter of John Bowshere of Powlker one good ewe shepe : to ffrances Playsted the daughter of Robert Pleysted one good ewe shepe ;

After death, debts &c., being paid, gives rest of goods &c., to John Bowsher of Broadhinton, Butcher, whom she makes executor.

Brother William and John Bowsher witnesses. Gives for their paynes 2s.

*Elizabeth X Pleysted
her mark.*

Proved at Marlborough 8th March, 1636.

Inventory :—Twoe kine £4 ; three score and thirtie sheepe £7 8s. 8d. ; two pigges 8s. ; 4 hennes and a cocke 2s. 6d. Corne in the barne £5 etc. Sum £37 2s. 2d.

(Wills of Archdeaconry of Wilts, Somerset House.)

*Abstract of Will of Robert Playsted of St. Andrew's, Holborn,
Dated 26th May, 1644*

In the name of God Amen. The 26th May, 1644. Robert Playsted, citizen and innholder of London. Body to be buried in such godly decent and Christian manner as executrix thinks convenient &c. And as touching the ordering and disposing of all such goods, plate, jewels, moneys &c. bequeaths the following :—

To the poor of the parish of Mildenhall where I was born £5. To the poor of the parish of St. Andrew's, Holborn, below the barrs, £3 in money ; and 40s. in bread ; and to the poor people of the Liberty of Finsbury in the parish of St. Giles, Cripplegate, £3 in money. All such legacies to be paid and distributed at the disposition of the Church Wardens and Overseers of the Poor of the same severall parishes.

To my Brother Stephen Playsted £20, and to his two sons that shall be living at the time of his decease £5 apeece. To his daughter Alice my Goddaughter £10. Gives to cosen Anne Whiteare, the daughter of Anthony Whitteare £5.

To my cousin Ursula Martin £3 and to her sister Coleman 40s., and to third sister Mary Allexander 40s.

To my sister Alice Talbott £10 and to her sonne Stephen £5.

To my Brother Edward Playsted's two-sons John and Edward either of them £5 a peece, and to their two sisters either of them £3 a peece.

To my cosen Nicholas Wadsworth and to his sister Mary either of them £3 a peece.

All to be paid by Executrix within 2 years of his decease.

Gives to my Cosen Thomas Wadsworth my Livery Gowne and my best suite of apparrell.

Gives to nephew Robert Playsted the eldest son of my said Brother Thomas Playsted all my lease interest and term of years to come in certain messuages, tenements, and houses in White-crosse Street and Chigwell Street in the parish of St. Giles without Cripplegate; and the reversion and reversions rents and yearly profits thereof which I hold from one Mr. Edward Trape (?) together with the Grand Lease and all other writings and Counter-paynes of Leases concerning the same tenements &c., unto my said nephew Robert Playsted immediately from and after the end of one year next after my decease &c. &c.

And my will and mind is that my executrix shall receive, take and enjoy the rents, issues, &c. of the said tenements &c. to her own use and behoof for and during the said term of one year after my decease.

Gives to son in law Edward Simeon £10.

And whereas Edward Robinson, late citizen and White-baker of London, deceased, by indenture dated 14th July 21 King James did demise &c. to Francis Gurlyn Gent. all that messuage tenement or Inne called by the name or sign of the White Horse situate in Fetter Lane, London, &c. &c. . . . for the term of three score years for the sum of £34 payable at four quarters of the year. Gives all his rights, title, interest &c. to said cousin Edward Playsted, eldest sonne of my said nephew Robert Playsted.

Rest of goods &c., to wife Mary, whom he makes full and sole Executrix.

Nominates and appoints my loving brother Richard Gualter and my loving friend William Pennington my supervisors. Gives them £5 a peece for their paynes. Revokes all former wills.

Signed: ROBERT PLAYSTED.

In presence of TIMOTHY SEXTEN; WM. BALEY; HUGH OSBORN, senior.

Will proved Sept. 1644.

*Nuncupative Will of Robert Plaisteed of Mildenhall, Co. Wilts,
Miller, Dated 10th March, 1653*

Memorandum that on or about the Tenth day of March in the yeare of our Lord 1653 Robert Playsteed of Wirge in the parrish of Mildenhall in the County of Wilts Miller deceased being sicke of body but of good and perfecte minde and memorie made and declared his last will and testament Nuncupative in manner and forme followeing That is to say I doe give and bequeath all my goodes Leases and Chattles within doores and without and alsoe my Lease of my houses att London unto my sonnes Edward and William Playsteed whom I doe nominate and appointe Executors of this my last will and testament.

These words or the like in effecte were spoken in the presence of :

John Playsteed his marke
THOMAS PERKINS

This Will was proved at Westminster the 10th day of the moneth of June in the yeare of our Lord God according to the Computation of the Church of England One thousand six hundred and ffftie-four Before the Judges for probate of Wills &c.

(Somerset House, London,—Allchin 72.)

*Abstract of Will of Alice Plaisteed of Baberstocke, Co. Wilts,
Spinster, Dated 19th October, 1664*

After usual recital,

"Whereas my Brother John Plaisteed of Marlborough is indebted unto me in bond the sum of £12. 10s. my will is that out of that sum my two kinswomen Ann and Mary Plaisteed daughters of my said brother John Plaisteed shall have 20s. apeice to be paid" &c. And my Will further is that the £10 10s. residue my said brother shall retayne and keepe.

"Whereas also my Brother in law John Horne oweth me uppon bond £10 my will is that £5 thereof shall be paid unto my brother Edward Plaisteed unto whom I give the said sum &c. And as concerning the other £5 I remitt and forgive the same unto my said brother-in-law John Horne."

"I give unto my dear Mother Jane Plaisteed widdow £5. To Christopher Steevens, Richard Blankett, John Stride, Roger Hyde, David Fowler, Richard Kimbrell and Thomas Mills' servant now dwelling with my sister Mrs. Horne, unto each and every of them half a crown apeice."

"I give unto my fellow servants Jane ffricker and Ann ffricker 20s. a piece and to goodwife Kimbrell 20s., and to goodwife Steevens 5s. I give unto my Brother John Plaisteed's wife various articles of clothing"; the same to "my said fellow servants Jane ffricker and Ann ffricker"; the same to goodwife

Kimbrell; and to Anneye Fricker and to Sister Horne wife of John Horne also articles of clothing. Gives to John Sande 5s. Rest of goods to loving Mistress Lucye Pile widdow whom she makes Executrix.

Alice PLAISTED (and seal).

Probate granted at Salisbury, October 1664.

(Somerset House.)

Abstract of Will of Edward Playsted of Wergy in Parish of Mildenhall, Co. Wilts, Miller, Dated 13th September, 1681

Gives to Kinswoman Rachel Playsted the daughter of Robert Playsted £40 to be paid within 7 years of his death. Gives to the poor of this parish £1. All rest of goods, &c. gives to his Brother William Playsted (viz.) my goods to him and his heirs for ever, and my lease for 11 years upon condition that he shall pay all my debts and legacies before mentioned.

Gives after the expyration of the said 11 years to my kinsman Robert Playsted the sonn of Gabryell Playsted my Myll with the appurtenances, part of the dwelling house, the east ende there of the garden and (apparently some land) towards the widdo Perkins of the stable and chaff coop (?) and Chamber next unto the mil and the plotte of meadow caled the Hame always provided my will is that if the aforesayd Robert shall happen to enjoy the estate before mentioned that hee the said Robert shall pay unto his sister Jane £30 within the space of one theard yeare &c.

Refers to settlement of "the aforesaid Robert and his four other sisters" (not mentioned by name).

Gives unto kinsman Robert Playsted the son of Robert Playsted the other part of his dwelling house, &c.

Also refers to his Brother William to whom he leaves other property.

"And further my Will is that the aforesaid Robert shall pay unto his sister Frances £30."

Also bequeaths to "my Cozen Mary his sister £20 to be paid by the aforesaid Robert the sonne of Robert Playsted" &c.

Bequeaths to brother Gabryell 20s.; To Robert Playsted 20s.; to Cozin Susana Playsted 20s.

The X mark of Edward Playsted.

Proved at Marlborough 14th October, 1681.

Inventory shows a total of £290 14s. 6d. (the lease of the Mill is valued at £200—included).

(Will at Somerset House—Archdeaconry of Wilts.)

Abstract of Will of Gabriell Plaister of Chippenham, Co. Wilts, Miller, Dated 20th January, 1685

Gives to son Robert £40 and best suit of cloathes. Gives to daughter Jane £15 and the Bed she useth to ly on with all the

things thereunto belonging and one fine Sheet one large diaper Table Cloaths, two Dyaper Napkins and one Chest.

Gives to Daughter Ann £15 and one fine sheet and after her Mother's decease I give unto her my large Brewing Kettle.

I give unto my daughter Elizabeth the summe of £15 and a great brass pann and two pewter platters.

I give unto my Daughter Mary £15 and one Trunk and one fine sheet and two pewter platters.

I give unto my said daughter Jane more One great brass potte and two pewter platters.

All the rest &c. gives unto loving wife Ann Plaister whom he makes executor.

GABRIELL PLAYSTEED.

Inventory taken 7th May, 1686.

Total £98 2s. 2d. (Included One hundred weight of Cheese £1).

Signed ROBERT PLAISTEED.

JOHN CROOK.

WILL HOBBS.

(Will at Somerset House—Archdeaconry of Wilts.)

Abstract of Will of Ann Plaisteed of Chippenham, Co. Wilts, Widow, Dated 11th March, 1694/5

After usual recital :

Gives unto four sons in law, viz. :—William Lovegrove, William Nott, Edward Fipp, and Robert Plaisteed, the sum of 1s. apiece.

Gives to Daughter Jane Plaisteed 1s. ; to Daughter Elizabeth 1s., and also one of my Biggest Barrells and two of my best Neck-Handkerchiefs.

Gives also unto her daughter Ann Lovegrove the sum of £5 to be paid within one year after her decease.

Gives unto her son William Lovegrove five the thirty [sic] shillings which is due to me from his father.

Ann the residue &c. gives to my two daughters Ann Nutt and Mary Fipp to be equally divided betwixt them.

Makes Ann Nutt and Mary Fipp sole Executrixes.

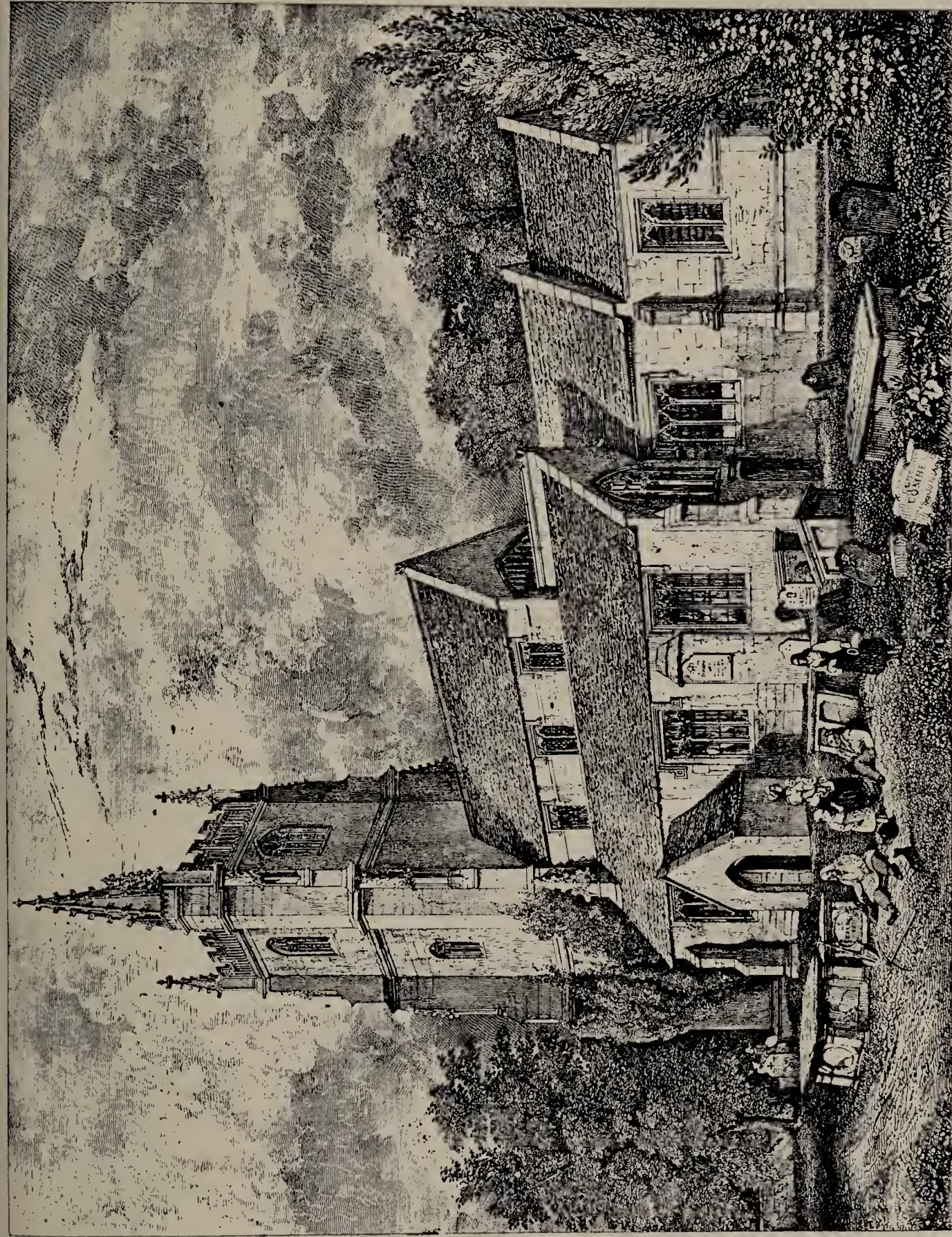
*The mark X of Ann Plaisteed
and seal.*

(Will at Somerset House.)

Abstract of Will of John Playsteed of Marlborough, Co. Wilts, Yeoman, Dated 28th July, 1696

Gives and bequeaths unto my three grandchildren, (viz) John Hankinson, John Symonds, and Frances Symonds the sum of 20s. a year to be paid by Executrix within a year of his decease.

Gives &c. unto my daughter Mary Wife of Richard Symonds



From an old print

CASTLE COMBE PARISH CHURCH
(Before the restoration of the 19th century)

of Marlborough Apothecary all that common Inn or Dwelling House with all backsides, gardens, &c. now in tenure of Robert Hill commonly called or known by the name of the Three Tuns and Crowne, situate, lying and being on the South side of the High Street in Marlborough. To have and to hold the same &c. unto her the said Mary Symonds &c.

All the rest of goods &c. unto my said daughter Mary Symonds whom I make sole executrix.

In witness whereof, I the said John Playsted have set my hand and seale &c. this 28th day of July 1696.

JO : PLAYSTEED.

Seal :

Probate granted 31st May, 1698, at Marlborough.

(Will at Somerset House.)

Abstract of Will of Robert Plasteed of Hungerford, Co. Berks, Cloth Worker, Dated 23rd September, 1719

Appoints Thos. Dunston Senr. and Robert Elkins Trustees.

Gives to wife Jane all goods and chattels.

After payment of all debts and funeral expenses his will is that if wife Jane marry again goods to be equally divided amongst his children, only wife to have two parts to their one part, and to be appraisted within 2 months after she be married, and within that time to be equally divided among my children ; but if wife dies without being married then her part shall remain equally among my children.

Makes wife full executrix, and revokes all other Wills and testaments.

Signed, and sealed in presence of THOS. WINTER, JOHN ROGYER, *mark X of Eliz. Bridgman.*

Mark & Seal of Robert Plaisted.

Proved at Hungerford, 7th July, 1720.

Inventory shows House and Land belonging to it of leasehold, £90 ; articles of furniture, trade, debts owing to him &c.

Sum total £156 16s. 9d.

(Wills of Dean and Canons of Windsor in Somersset House.)

ADMINISTRATIONS OF WILLS : WILTS

Edith Plaisted of Mildenhall, 1648

Administration to her daughter Martha Elliott.

P.C.C.

William Playsted of Mildenhall, 1667

Administration of goods &c. of William Playsted, late of Mildenhall, yeoman, deceased, granted to John Playsted his father.

Dated 22nd October, 1667.

Inventory of Wm. Playsted late of Mildenhall. Total £54 6s. 2d.

John Playsted of Mildenhall, 1669

Administration of goods &c. of John Playsted, late of Mildenhall, Berks, Taylor, and Lawrence Keate of Mildenhall, yeoman.

Dated 1st June, 1669.

Inventory: Mention of a Lease at Compton Basset, Wilts £24, Farm stock, household furniture, &c. &c.

Total: Three score and eleven pounds.

ADMINISTRATIONS OF WILLS: BERKS

John Playstead of Eastbury, 1680

Administration of goods &c. of John Playstead, late of Eastbury, yeoman, deceased, granted to Anne Playstead his widow, of Eastbury, Berks.

Dated 31st August, 1680.

Inventory: Sum £77 12s. 2d. Mentions "In the fields of Eastbury aforesaid, Woodland, and Blagrow £30."

William Playsted of Hungerford, 1763

Administration of goods &c. of William Playsted, late of Hungerford, granted to Mr. Edward Playsted of Hungerford, Berks Husbandman, and Thos. Bear of Hungerford, Cordwainer, Bound to Bishop of Llandaff &c. Official of the Peculiar Jurisdiction of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster in the sum of £1,000.

Dated 27th October, 1763.

PLAISTED OF WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN, GLOS

PLAISTED OF WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN, GLOS

WHAT induced Thomas Plaisted (1504-86) of Mildenhall to select Westbury-on-Severn as his domicile we cannot determine, but he lived in an age when conditions were vastly different from those of our own time. Distant places were joined up more closely than we are aware by the trains of pack horses which marketed wool to the weavers, and the development of trade followed the line of these ancient routes. Along the old straight track of Ermine Street, which passed through Mildenhall, trains of horses laden with wool came from the Cotswolds and the Vale of Tewkesbury. Traffic from the west or south of England forded the Severn near Westbury, where was "one of the passages over the river which is perfectly safe, for men, horses, and carriages." Apart from the rivers of England the highways left by the Romans were the only channels of commerce until the turnpike movement of the eighteenth century. They provided the means of communication between regions not now in direct contact. We may then imagine Thomas fired with expectation boldly setting out along Ermine Street to the land of the sunset, where he found across the Severn a new home on the outskirts of the Forest of Dean.

Movements of vast importance in the world of industry were then taking place in this country. The business of farming as a commercial speculation was just being created, and Thomas was one of the pioneers of the new age. He saw a new England arise, in which farms surrounded by walls and hedges were taking the place of the open field farms of primitive days, while the community farms of former generations were being laid down for rest under grass. The Wars of the Roses (1455-85) were not fought over our familiar landscape of hedges and ditches. The cavalry of those days charged across the open country as they never could

have done over the chequered enclosures which began to adorn the map in every direction. The former idea of agriculture had been to enable each village to grow its own food as a common effort, but constant use and the absence of scientific methods had exhausted the soil. A national market was also coming into existence in the towns with their increasing demand for farm produce in many forms, and for the first time in English history capitalist farming arose to satisfy the needs of the nation.

Thomas had found the capital for that development in the profits of the cloth trade, which was the main foundation of our international commerce. The fact that this country had cloth to barter for the gold and merchandise of the New World gave to England the great advantage over Spain. That country possessed no such marketable commodity. The years of prosperity which enabled Thomas to break out from the cloth trade into a new enterprise also tempted others of the family in later generations to cross the sea in search of commerce and adventure.

In his younger days Thomas Plaisted followed the weaving industry at Mildenhall, where he figured on the Subsidy Roll for Wilts in 1524 as living with his father at Stitchcombe. He probably removed to Westbury at the time of his marriage, which took place about 1530, twenty years before registration was adopted. The first record of him at Westbury is on the Muster Roll for Gloucestershire (1534-5). Some years later he appeared (9th December, 1541) as a copy-holder in the Manor of Rodley, but the entry suggests he had by that time become firmly established. He remained at Rodley until he died more than forty years later.

There is a charm about the whole of that part of Gloucestershire which no one can deny. Westbury is no more than a cluster of houses on either side of the main road from Gloucester to Chepstow. The place still retains the main features of an old-world agricultural settlement. About a mile south-east of the village is the tithing of Rodley, partly in Newnham, but mostly in Westbury, situated on a peninsula of land surrounded except on the north side by the River Severn. Before the eye stretches out a magnificent

view over the winding river ; the land in the background gradually rises towards the Malvern Hills, and in the near distance is the Forest of Dean. The visitor to-day gets but a poor impression of the former grandeur of that wild woodland, which once extended to over 43,000 acres. There are other tithings of land in the parish of Westbury, as Elton and Broad Oak, where the descendants of Thomas extended. All these gather around the Parish Church, the tall tower of which forms a conspicuous landmark, a lasting memorial to the piety of the Middle Ages.

With all the wild beauty of his new surroundings Thomas must often have longed for the simpler charm of his former way of life. The natives of Westbury were a tough lot. They were the subject of a petition presented to Henry VII by the Tewkesbury traders, who complained that when their vessels passed down the Severn " by the costes of the Forest of Dene " there came out " multitudes of people from Bledisloe and Westbury with great ryot and strengthe in manner of warre, as ennemys of a straunge land," who despoiled their ships of wheat, malt, and flour. They were probably no worse than other wild wreckers of the coast. A picture of that sort is typical of the conditions which then prevailed in the remote lawless parts of this country.

In his new life Thomas made a good bid for success, although it was by no means a primrose path. The adoption of commercial farming, like all other processes of change, produced its own disturbances of the economic order and created much unemployment. In due time the sheep farms of Thomas brought him wool which he traded to the cloth mills of the Cotswold country ; the profits set up his youngest son William as a weaver and hosier ; his second son Thomas acquired a competence with a fishery in the Severn ; one of his leasehold farms was bestowed upon a son Daniel ; and having bequeathed gifts to his daughters Katherine, Elizabeth, Agnes, and Dorothy, he died leaving the bulk of a fair estate to his eldest son John I (1530-1600). The spirit of thoroughness which had blessed him in business haunted his declining days, for his last will was witnessed by at least seven signatures.

THE SHIPYARD AT WESTBURY

We find little trace of John I, to whom Thomas left his principal estate. Towards the end of that century he was succeeded by John II (1555-1620), who discerned the signs of the times and profited by his awakening. We are told that he held "part of the Manor of Rodley." The impetus to foreign trade which followed upon England's break with Spain in the days of Queen Elizabeth, and the lure of the mythical "far Cathay," stirred the imagination of this country to the unknown wonders of the New World. From Bristol the Merchant Adventurers sailed forth to discover fresh markets for home manufactures. Many of them succumbed to the perils of the voyage, the snares of pirates, the dangers of unknown seas, and the hostility of unfriendly people. Sir Francis Drake, the greatest of adventurers and a contemporary of John Plaisted II, lived in his mature years at Gatcombe, not far from Westbury, on the banks of the Severn.

Nothing is recorded of a shipyard at Westbury until the industry was founded by the same John II, shipwright, of Elton. Few parts of the country were more favourably situated. The ships of the English Fleet which fought the Invincible Armada (1588) were built principally from timber grown in the Forest of Dean. Feverish preparations to meet the Spanish attack and to capture overseas commerce awakened in John the enthusiasm of enterprise. All the resources of his neighbourhood favoured the building of ships. There had been Forest forges for the smelting of iron long before coal became an industrial factor. Ships of 400 to 600 tons burden were built and launched at Broad Oak, Westbury. Until the eighteenth century a flourishing coastal trade existed from Newnham and Westbury, to London and Ireland. The larger ports of the Bristol Channel also offered profitable freights to and from New England and the West Indies.

In the generation of John III (1580-1640), "a man of the tallest stature," quaintly described in the registers of Westbury as a "shippeman," the landed interest remained with the eldest son Robert (1604-70), but the shipbuilding business descended to John IV (1624-90). He was the

only son of a second wife Dorothy, who seems to have brought fresh capital into the business. About this time certain of the family migrated across the Severn to Somerset, where they are distinguished by a slight variation in the family name. The early registrations of Westbury show diverse spellings for the same individual, from Playsted to Plaister, the latter form being adopted by the branch which settled at Bristol, where two sons of John III were apprenticed :

1623. *May 15.*

Anthony son of John Plaister, shipwright, of Westbury, Glos, to Henry Bullock, cooper, and Mary his wife.

1625. *May 21.*

Thomas son of John Plaister, shipwright, of Westbury, Glos, . . .

Bristol Apprentices.

The second indenture is unfinished and cancelled, for which no reason is assigned.

One of the vessels that arrived at Boston, Mass., in June 1712, was entered as : " Francis Plaisted and ye Ship ' John and Dorothy ' from Barbados." The arresting feature of this item is that Dorothy had been the second wife of John III, and was the mother of John IV, but we are unable to corroborate that Francis was a son of John IV, although reason might presume the conclusion. Our interest is further deepened by an entry in the registers of St. George, Nevis, W.I., to the effect that " Francis Plaisted, mariner, married Hester Stanton, spinster " (24th December, 1723). The difficulty of navigation in the Upper Severn, due to the silting of the tideway, which became more acute in the early 1700's, afterwards occasioned the removal of the ship-building industry from Westbury to Gatcombe and Chepstow.

The same defective years of the Commonwealth which produce no evidence of Francis are also silent about other children of John IV (1624-90). He evidently had a son Edward (1654-1719) to whom the business at Westbury descended, and who took to wife Patience Robins. They were married (27th July, 1681) at Bristol Cathedral. The death of Patience left Edward a widower in early life : then

at the age of forty-two years he took to himself a second wife Cissell Andrews, of Flemingstone, Glam, to whom we will return under that heading.

THE MANOR OF RODLEY

Throughout the Revolution and under the guidance of Robert I (1604-70), a son of John III, the farming industry continued the even tenor of its way, reflecting the passing phases of fortune and fashion. These years were enlivened to an extent by the political conflagration of the Civil War (1642-6), which affected Westbury as it did other parts of the country. In that quarrel the Forest of Dean was largely Royalist, although Westbury at first was garrisoned for the Parliamentary Party: but the men who formed the rank and file were principally volunteers, unwilling to remain away indefinitely from their homes and work. The Cavalier armies, like the Roundhead regiments, were mostly of a private character, raised by the country gentleman at his own charges, and commanded by some Low-country lieutenant engaged to fight his squadron for him. Some such troop possessed Westbury for the King when on 7th May, 1643, it was recovered by Colonel Massie, Governor of Gloucester, for the Parliamentary Party. We will quote a contemporary account of the siege of Westbury:

“The place was all strongly fortified and well provided with men, arms, and a munition; all which it pleased God miraculously to deliver in his (i.e. Col. Massie) hands: for he first assaulting the garrison at Westbury (which was Mr. Colchester's house and the church) he got to the church, and with grandoes and pistol shot, the which he sent in at the windows, he presently made the enemy to forsake the church and run to the house: which being discovered by the Governor's forces, the church was quickly possest by them: which made the enemy forsake all their outworkes and cry for quarter. There were slain of the enemy about 20, and about 3 taken prisoners.”

A Gilbertian element of the Revolution is emphasised in a letter written by the same Governor of Gloucester, then General Massie, to Charles II in exile, which he concludes by “powreing out my poore prayer . . . that the Lord of

Lords and King of Kings . . . would also establish your feet upon the throanes of your kingdomes," which time-serving eulogium ensured profitable employment for the general when the King came into his own again.

These passing events did not greatly disturb the normal life of Westbury, yet the wider revolution produced much of the distress common to all wars. Yeoman freeholders and tenant farmers continued to flourish, and individuals were more unfettered than they had been in the corporate life of mediæval England, or have become in our own time ; but that freedom was then qualified by the greater subjection of women to men. Women seldom chose their own husbands, and the husband was emphatically the lord and master. Many tables of descent show the woman kept busy in child-bearing and immersed in domestic affairs, until at last she found rest from her labours in a premature grave.

The Court Rolls of the Manor of Westbury refer to Daniel (1642-93), the eldest son of Robert and Joan, as possessing a copyhold estate called Busallds at the time of his decease, which was that part of Rodley held by the family. It afterwards descended to another Robert, who presented homage for the land 5th May, 1693. Upon his decease the estate passed to his son Daniel, who survived two wives Mary and Sarah, then Daniel himself died in 1734, just when far-reaching changes were taking place in industrial life. These were due to the drift of the people from country districts to the towns, following the demand for labour in factory and workshop, which attracted village crafts to urban centres. Thus the villages were left more purely agricultural, and a new demand arose for food to provide the needs of a rapidly increasing urban population.

The system of Corn Laws was intensified in 1670. Prohibitive duties were placed on foreign produce, bounties were granted on the export of corn, and higher prices were secured for the cultivator. All these expedients of modern Europe were tried out by England two centuries ago, and were not abandoned until disaster resulted. With occasional suspensions during years of scarceness the Corn Laws remained until 1773, when the duties were reduced. Until the repeal of that legislation in the nineteenth century this

country was mainly dependent upon its own resources. We therefore find during the eighteenth century a feverish enclosure of land for further cultivation, the increasing wealth of landed proprietors, and the growing prosperity of the larger tenant farmers. This impetus was just starting in the lifetime of John VIII, who upon his decease (1759) left his real estate to his wife Mary, with reversion to their eldest son Richard. His personal estate was to be divided between his other children : John IX, who married a cousin Mary ; and another Mary whose husband was John Selwyn.

After the decease of Mary, widow of John VIII, who outlived her husband about five years, the family estate was divided between Richard I and John IX by a mutual agreement. Five years later John IX married his cousin Mary Plaisted at Micheldean, then they resided at Linton, Herefordshire, where they both are buried in the churchyard. The share which fell to Richard is thus described :

“ A house and tything land in Adsett, with a barn, wainhouse, garden, and orchard. One piece of arable land containing about 8 acres. Another piece of 4 acres, and a little orchard adjoining the said piece of 4 acres, and all adjoining the said messuage. Also a piece of orcharding containing $\frac{1}{2}$ an acre called Cleeve Orchard.”

Court Rolls of Westbury-on-Severn.

The schedule of the Baron Court of Rodley makes no reference to other farm lands occupied by Richard, which must have been of considerable extent, but merely enumerates those portions in which Richard possessed the right of copyhold.

After ploughing the lonely furrow for eight years, following the death of his mother, Richard took to himself a wife, Rachel Selwyn of Newnham, who became the mother of fourteen children. The Selwyn family of Gloucestershire, into which Richard married, was a branch of the Sussex family, where the name of John Selvans or Selvanus appears as early as 1299–1303. Traces of the family are found in Gloucestershire about 1516, and according to Fosbrooke much earlier than that time. The main family settled at Matson House, on the grassy slopes of Mattesdon and Churchdown, in the Vale of Severn. The reader is referred

to an account of the family with several branch pedigrees under the heading: "Some Records of Matson in the County of Gloucester and of the Selwyns," by the Rev. Wm. Bazeley, appearing in the *Transactions of Bristol and Gloucester Archæological Society*, Vol. II (1877-8). During the time of William Selwyn the fugitive Charles I resided for twenty-six days at Matson House.

Here we arrive at the stage in the family history which can best be compared with Ararat after the Flood, when from that point in the ancient world the whole earth was overspread by the generations of Noah. No other phrase fits so completely the dispersion which was about to occur. The early years of their domestic life at Westbury passed uneventfully with harmony in the home and prosperity on the land, until the close of the century, which marked the beginning of a succession of changes. In the year 1798 Richard decided to leave John X in occupation of the estate at Westbury, and to take up a new venture at Crick Manor House, Mathern, near Chepstow, where Richard and Rachel spent the last ten years of their married life with the younger sons and daughters, farming the lands of the manor.

THE THREADS OF HISTORY

One of the early acts of the Commonwealth was to take the registration of all births, marriages, and deaths out of the hands of the clergy, and to appoint lay registrars, who were frequently slovenly and illiterate. From the year 1650 to 1668 no Plaisted baptism is found at Westbury, although several children were born. The return of Charles II in 1660 restored the duty of registration to the clergy, but years elapsed before the new order functioned smoothly. At the best of times many gaps occurred. We are able through the Manor Rolls to connect the generations from Daniel II to John VIII, because copyhold land fell to the eldest son, but many younger sons and daughters passed to their rest unrecorded and remain unknown.

By way of qualifying this impression, it must be remembered that England until the eighteenth century was frequently visited by appalling ravages of plague and sickness, which carried off an amazing percentage of the population.

This alone would account for many sons and daughters in the table of descent whose history cannot be traced and whose decease is nowhere recorded. Most parishes suffered from the blight of carelessness. Through indifference or in times of epidemic they failed to keep a faithful account of the genesis and exodus of their parishioners. We have been able to substantiate certain events from contemporary sources, but many names fitfully appear only to be lost again in the ocean of oblivion.

The younger sons and daughters of Westbury appear now and again in scattered places. Some turned to the weaving industry, which was a flourishing family concern until the introduction of machinery: some remained on the land or engaged in commerce: while a steady stream sought fresh pastures beyond the seas. This distribution is illustrated in one generation alone by John (1561-1619), son of Thomas II of Cleeve, who followed his father's vocation as a fisherman, and augmented his living with a small-holding. His sister Jane married Roger Ailway, a young man of good family in that part of the country: and his younger son Nicholas (1590-1652) became a weaver at Cleeve. The latter also improved his position by marrying his cousin Bridget Ailway, whose will appears among others in the Gloucester Probate Registry.

About the same time one William, son of John II, followed a seafaring life and gravitated to the West Indies, where his name is given (1628) as an early settler in the Island of Barbados, which before 1625 was wholly unpeopled. An occasional glimpse of passing events is vouchsafed by the Court Rolls of the Tithing of Rodley, but they are few and unexciting. The need for a gateway to "Stroud Field, Broadoake," was proved by "Alexander Playsticke" in 1651, alleging that he had knowledge of the need for fifty years. We next find Christopher of Broad Oak in the lime-light. He was afflicted with the land fever, for he was ordered (1674) to throw up the enclosure he had taken in at Broad Oak, being on His Majesty's Highway. The burden of the King's Highway was the subject of another suit against Alexander Playsteed, who was cited in 1708 for "not keeping a sufficient bridge at Weston Brook, leading to Newn-

ham.” In those days the labour necessary to maintain the highways was conscripted from the landowners and occupants of each parish, and the work was extremely badly done.

With more perfect knowledge we might find that certain of the younger people moved to parts of England beyond what we have explored, and that the spirit of adventure attracted others from the farm or the shipyard. When we remember that no account has been preserved of their careers, that such records as we possess are barren and disjointed, and that it is difficult to track people who left slender traces of their existence, it is no small marvel that we have gleaned sufficient to elaborate a simple story.

THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

When Richard I planted his home westward at Crick Manor he left at Westbury his eldest son John X, also a younger son Thomas IX (1785–1866), whose footprints on the sands of time are vague and shadowy. He appears to have contracted a youthful marriage, of which his family disapproved, for he received rather cold treatment in the father’s will, to a wife Elizabeth several years his senior. They had children William (*b.* 1799), Jemima (1803–14), and Esther (*b.* 1809), all born at Westbury. There may have been others registered elsewhere of whom we have no knowledge. Elizabeth died in 1834 in the Hundred of St. Briavels, but Thomas survived her by more than thirty years. He departed this life at Chepstow, aged eighty-one years, and was buried at Caerwent near his mother and brothers. The need for cross-checking information is made clear by this instance, for confusion often arises through similarity of name. Thomas IX lived most of his years at Westbury, but died elsewhere. Another Thomas of a parallel branch, born at Newent, lived with a son William (*b.* 1834) at Longhope, and in 1874 was buried at Westbury, although he resided there only in his latter days.

The Baron Court of the Tithing of Rodley reported the decease of Richard I on 2nd July, 1810, when the Court declared “that Rachel Playsted should be admitted to her free-bench out of a messuage called Adsett . . . the said Rachel having paid an heriot, etc.” This was a tribute of

the personal goods and chattels of the deceased occupant of the land, due according to manorial law. The custom of exacting an heriot prevailed also at Castle Combe and Mildenhall, as in all ancient manors, although we have not made earlier reference to the practice, when any change took place in the succession of copyhold land. By a peculiar local exception, widows at Castle Combe were not liable for the tribute. The heriot is supposed to have had its origin in the Saxon "heregeat," i.e. the horse and military equipment of a retainer, which at the death of the follower were put into other hands for the defence of the country. When more peaceful conditions prevailed it was assumed that the lord had provided the equivalent equipment for agricultural work, and was therefore entitled to some token of the fact on the death of a tenant, which was generally the best live beast, horse, or ox, of which he died possessed. A more modern practice frequently commuted the right to a money payment, but many legal disputes arose over the heriot before the last remnants of feudal tenure were abolished by the late Lord Birkenhead's Act. The Court of Rodley observed that "John Playsted eldest son of the late Richard Playsted . . . was admitted at a rent," i.e. a "relief" or year's quit rent of a nominal sum, which was due from a new tenant coming in to the property, according to the copyhold of the manor.

The first marriage of William (1799-1879), son of Thomas IX, was to Mary Davis (*m.* 1824) of Westbury, and it was witnessed by John X before he left for America. There were eleven children of William and Mary, of whom eight survived the fatal snares of infancy: John XI (1824-82), Thomas (1825-50), Ann (*b.* 1828), Elizabeth (*b.* 1833), who married Charles Ayland, Mary (*b.* 1838), Charles (*b.* 1842), Harriett (*b.* 1846), and Mary Anne (*b.* 1845), whose baptism cannot be found. The second wife of William was Mary Heavens, a widow of East Dean, where in 1862 William was in residence. In the following generation the family name disappeared altogether from Westbury. John XI married a wife Elizabeth (*m.* 1849), and they had daughters Mary and Caroline, and sons Tom (*b.* 1851) and William (*b.* 1853). A gap then occurs of some years until we meet the baptism of



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WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN PARISH CHURCH WITH ITS 13TH-
CENTURY DETACHED TOWER AND SHINGLE-COVERED SPIRE

Ellen Elizabeth (b. 1862) at Flaxley. The last family entry at Westbury records the burial of John XI twenty years later.

Westbury Church as it now exists belongs to the Middle Ages. It has suffered less than most places from modern improvements. The north aisle and arcade appear to be in the style of 1300 ; the chancel suggests an addition of 1350 ; the west façade of the nave is about 1400. There are monuments to John (1759) and Mary (1763), the parents of Richard, but none in the churchyard. One of the striking features is the detached tower of the Church, with its soaring wooden spire, all of carpenter's work, framed and mortised, which stands apart from the rest of the building, and dominates an extensive landscape. The whole place is beautifully set in ideal surroundings. As you pause there in a contemplative mood, the whole pageant of four centuries passes before the imagination and you are thrilled as by the vision of Ezekiel in the valley : " And they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army."

AWRE AND BLAKENEY

Not far from Westbury is the hamlet of Awre, a delightful place in a great bend of the Severn, with a fine old mill situated under great trees, and a charming half-timbered and gabled farmhouse pleasantly blended into a perfect picture. There are traces of the Middle Ages in the fabric of the Church. It has a font which dates from the early fifteenth century. The most impressive thing about the churchyard is its ancient yews, far older than any buildings in the neighbourhood. Blakeney is a chapelry of Awre. An examination of the registers revealed a family tragedy. When about thirty years of age, one John, the elder son of Thomas VII, of Westbury, married Elizabeth some years his senior, widow of Richard Hopkins, a descendant of that writer whose work is remembered in the " Sternhold and Hopkins " edition of the Psalms. This standard metrical version of the Psalms continued in general use from 1548 till 1698, when it was superseded by that of Tate and Brady. Elizabeth died on 23rd March, 1807, which loss so affected John that a few days before Christmas in the same year he

was found drowned in the Severn at Newnham. Their names appear together on a memorial in the south aisle of Awre Church, with others of the Hopkins family.

EAST DEAN AND LITTLEDEAN

Charles (*b.* 1842), younger son of William of East Dean, who had removed there from Westbury, married Elizabeth Hale, and for some years they lived at East Dean. Their children Mary Jane (*b.* 1861) and Harriet Gertrude (*b.* 1863) were baptised at Flaxley, while George William (*b.* 1866) was christened at Westbury. Another son Frank was born in 1869, but up to now his record has not been traced. Charles and his family decided in 1878 to migrate to New Zealand, where they landed at Lyttleton and established the first colony of Plaisted in that outpost of the British Empire.

There were at that time two branches of the family living at East Dean, of which the longer established hailed from Newnham. Most of the new departures at Newnham started with one named Thomas, possibly because many arose of that name in the eighteenth century, and it had a better chance of coming to the surface. Among these was Thomas (1796–1871), a carpenter by trade, who in 1825 married Ann Hewlett. A few years later they left Newnham, where the elder children had been born, lived awhile at Aylesford, then settled at Wood Cottage, Brains Green, in the parish of East Dean. Their surviving children were: Henry John (1830–1900), James (1835–1891), Emily (*b.* 1837), and Mary (*b.* 1839). Henry John remained at Brains Green until the end of his days, when he left a widow Hannah Maria (*m.* 1854) and a son Arthur Henry. His younger brother James died at Milland, Blakeney, where for some years he was a road surveyor. Our knowledge of them all is most insufficient, for they left few traces where they lived, but these facts can be a starting-point for anyone wishing to expand the beginnings of a story into something more alive with human interest.

FLEMINGSTONE AND LLANMAES

With some years of experience and a clear sense of what he wanted Edward Plaisted (1654–1719) of Westbury, who

by the late 1600's had developed into a gentleman of leisure, decided that apart from any possible claim to a fortune, his second wife must be in the bloom of youth. He therefore captured the heart of Cissell Andrews, of Flemingstone, Glam, who had been not many years out of the nursery. Their first child was born when Cissell had just passed her sixteenth birthday, and altogether there were six children of the marriage. At the tender age of thirty years the mother died, leaving the care of the young family to a husband who survived her by nine years, then followed her to the grave when his only son Edward II attained his majority.

Some twenty-three years later the administration of the father's estate was questioned in a Chancery Proceeding (p. 109) started by Thomas Morris of Llanblethian, who had married one of Edward's daughters. The index refers to him as "Edward Plaisted . . . Shipwright," which may imply that he retained during his lifetime an interest in the business at Westbury, but we have not followed up the settlement of the suit. This dispute arose when Edward II decided to dispose of the home of his youth, and to embark upon marriage with Elizabeth Thomas of Llanmaes, Glam, a young lady of charm and beauty, the co-heiress of the Thomas and Yorath families. Her property included a spacious residence at Llanmaes still known as Plaisted House.

This example of Edward II stirred his son Alexander (1741-82) to a similar adventure in the lists of love, for he secured in the marriage market Barbara Basset, an only daughter of distinction and wealth, who brought with her by way of dower certain lands at Coychurch, Glam.

His name appears on the third bell of Llanmaes Church, "Alexander Plaisted Churchwarden 1777." The Basset family, to which we have already made reference, had held great possessions in England since the time of the First Crusade. Barbara was one of the Bassets of Sigginston, a hamlet in the parish of Llantwit Major. They were resident for some generations at Llanblethian, and they descended from Henry Basset, a younger son of the Basset of Beaupre in the fifteenth century. The senior line of Beaupre died out

in the male issue in the nineteenth century, but there are legitimate junior branches still in Glamorgan. On the decease of Barbara the property she held passed to her two sons Richard and Charles, with a smaller legacy to a daughter Barbara Basset. Richard died childless and Charles remained a bachelor, thus the male succession failed, then the property descended to the female line, which we have not pursued. There is no memorial to indicate their resting-place in Llanmaes churchyard, but under the door of the tower is a small square stone with the words "Richard Plaisted 1813" on it. There is also a mural tablet at the west end of the Church, south side, which commemorates the whole of the family from Edward II of Llanmaes to Charles who died in 1849 aged 75.

The custom of preserving Christian names in a family is illustrated by these descendants at Flemingstone and Llanmaes. We find the names of the sons repeat those of the father's relations at Westbury-on-Severn, with the exception of Charles, who was christened after his uncle Basset, while the names of daughters perpetuate those found among the mother's people. Towards the close of the eighteenth century it was becoming the practice for children to be baptised with two Christian names, as Barbara Basset Plaisted blessed with a double prefix. In Puritan generations there was a distinct preference for the Old Testament element, as Daniel, Joseph, Sarah, and Rachel, which names were often handed on to posterity. One daughter of New England, whose thrilling adventures would furnish an admirable screen story or adorn any family chronicle, received the exquisite name of Mehetabel. The reigning monarch comes in for a share of devotion, as with Elizabeth, Charles, Anne, and George. The more modern fashion is inclined to embarrass children with high-sounding and sometimes weird names, without considering whether the possessors are likely to live up to a lofty tradition. Yet in our own times convention or the lack of originality is such that certain names have a run of popularity. They may even date the age of a possessor. It would be difficult to disguise the fact that George Kitchener Jones and Mary Patricia Robinson were "war babies," or that Maud and

Bertha are generally women in middle life. With these personal reflections we will return to our muttons.

NEWNHAM-ON-SEVERN

Among the younger children of Thomas I of Westbury the more continuous line of posterity proceeded through William (1545-1607), who is described as a hosier. We hoped to have connected his industry with the later generations which flourished in the drapery business at Newnham, but the trail soon faded out, for the immediate successors of William forsook the loom and lived on the land. Thomas of Elton (1589-1627), and Christopher of Broad Oak, the son and grandson of William, were both farmers. A new turn of enterprise then arose in which John (1619-1709), son of Christopher, became a maltster at Coleford, Glos, where he died without male succession. His daughter Eleanor is worthy of mention for the fact that she had three husbands and outlived them all. The business of maltster was also taken up by Thomas I (1692-1758) of Newnham, grandson of Christopher. This example was not continued by his children, and on his decease the concern passed into other hands.

Newnham is by far the most attractive place on the Upper Severn between Gloucester and Chepstow. Standing in the churchyard on the edge of the cliff above the river, a most enchanting view can be obtained across the water to the Vale of Berkeley in the near distance, with the Cotswold Hills against the far horizon. The principal street running gently down from the Church to the shore of the Severn possesses interesting architectural features. An older Church, destroyed in 1881 by fire, was a daughter foundation of Westbury-on-Severn. Beyond a beautiful font there is now not much to recall the ancient glory of the former building. It was from Newnham that Henry II sailed in 1171 for the subjugation of Ireland, but his conquest was so partial that the title of his successors as Lord of Ireland was merely nominal. Most of the ancient commerce of Newnham with its shipping activity has passed to Gloucester, Bristol, and Newport, yet it still remains the principal market town of the Forest district.

The eldest son of Thomas I of Newnham was John I (1729-1805), who figured in a list of electors in 1782 for Jocham's Charity at Newnham. This was an endowment founded by James Jocham of the City of Bristol, joiner, who left the interest of £1,000 to the parish of Newnham: "towards cloathing of 15 boys, and the remainder to poor Lying-in Women." An extract from the disbursements of the charity in 1772 gives an instructive idea of prices current at that time:

"The woollen cloth 3*d.* per yard: Hatts 1*s.* 6*d.* each:
Stockins 1*d.* a payer: Buckles 6*d.*: Shoes 3*s.* 3*d.* a paire:
Breeches 3*s.* 9*d.*: Shirts (making) 6*d.* each."

We get a glimpse of the war with Napoleon in the adventures of the sons of Thomas II and Dorothy Bennett of Newnham. John II and Christopher, the eldest and youngest, were owners of the *Wye*, a barque which traded from the ports of the Severn to the Continent of Europe. Our introduction to John II is on his marriage to Elizabeth (1783), widow of his deceased brother Thomas IV (1748-79). The War of American Independence, which broke the political egg-shell of old Colonial Britain, hatched out the present British Empire and the United States of America. The end of that struggle found this country at war with half the world, especially with France and Spain, the ancient enemies of Britain. John II of Newnham made his will in 1787, realising the danger of his calling, for the privateers of France were seriously endangering all marine communications. The ship *Wye* was captured somewhere in the Channel in 1792-3, when John and Christopher with the crew were taken prisoners to France. The younger brother made his escape back to England, where he died at Awre (1814), but John never returned. His decease was presumed in 1797, when his effects were administered by Elizabeth, a widow for the second time within ten years.

John I of Newnham had a nephew John IV (1769-1817), who is named in a local history as having preserved in an article from one William Fuller, the guest of a season, a valuable contemporary account of the charms of that neighbourhood, supplemented by extracts from historical

sources. The contents have been partly reproduced by Miss Mabel K. Woods in her enlightening work on Newnham, which we commend to those seeking a more complete account of its ancient glory. The outstanding claim of John IV for remembrance, however, was that he became Master of Newnham School. Born in the fullness of time, he was one of the pioneers of a new age, in spite of the fact that all the schools of his day were lamentably inefficient. The spirit of Elizabethan and the early Stuart Grammar Schools, inspired by the progressive zeal of a great period in English history, had long been forgotten. Education in the Hanoverian age was the Cinderella of all the professions, but at its best it paved the way for something better. The amount of sound learning imparted in the small grammar schools was little enough beyond writing, reading, and simple first principles ; still it kept the candle of education burning until the dawn of brighter days. At Gloucester, only twelve miles from Newnham, Joseph Raikes in 1780 started to organise his wonderful system of Sunday schools, and we may reasonably conclude that influenced by his great example John IV, who was a contemporary of Joseph Raikes, had much to do with the introduction of the Sunday school movement to Newnham.

We were puzzled for a while by the disappearance of Thomas VI (*b.* 1775), the younger brother of John IV, from the neighbourhood of Newnham. He married a wife, Mary Young, at Micheldean (1798), then vanished into oblivion. After sundry vicissitudes we connected him with Thomas of Deptford, whose antecedents were equally mysterious. A communication written by the son of Sally Hughes (*née* Plaisted) confirmed this conclusion, for it remarked that the wife of John Plaisted (1800–58) of Australia came from Gloucestershire. The mystery partly arose through the fact that Thomas VI married a second wife Lydia, who brought the surname Wilkes into the family, and from their son Thomas Wilkes Plaisted the connections at Plumstead and Lambeth are descended. We will refer to the posterity of the elder son John in our notes on Australia.

In the next generation at Newnham we find John V (1791–1865) following the erudite footsteps of his father as

mentor of the youthful intelligence of the town, then he in turn was succeeded by John VI (1832-87), who forsook the reefs and shoals of a scholastic career and launched out into the storms of commerce. Yet even in so doing he was constrained to acknowledge the classic dignity of the academic profession, for on his marriage to Mary Philpotts he described his father as : " John Plaisted, Gentleman." The sterling qualities of John VI commanded success. He was first draper (1861), then grocer and draper (1864), unless the first description in the register in the excitement of the moment was inadequate. That occasion was the baptism of John VII (1861-1909), who blossomed out later in life as a furrier and traveller in London, and there helped to complicate the tangle of family descent which down the ages has gravitated to London. If we say nothing further at present about others of the Newnham stock who have achieved renown in more recent fields, it is not that they are unworthy of remembrance, but rather because modern events call for no troubadours. The kindest act of any biographer is to leave some scope for the romance of imagination.

THE PROVINCE OF SOUTH AFRICA

The family name has been carried to South Africa by those who have migrated from the home country. Their origin can be traced to an extent by the spelling found among the various dispersions. The form Plaisted was adopted by the Westbury stock : Playsted indicates a Newnham extraction : Plaister is of Somersetshire : Plested is native to Berkshire. This distinction may be useful as a preliminary guide, indicating where a search might be made ; but it is no more than a general statement. The story of family developments in the Province of South Africa remains yet to be written.

THE PARISH REGISTERS OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND GLAMORGANSHIRE

EXTRACTS FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS OF CO. GLOS

WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN

I. From Register which includes :

Baptism : 1538 to 1657, with the exception of 1547-60 ;
a few entries for 1558.

Marriages : 1538 to 1664, with the exception of 1546-58,
and 1646-64.

Burial : 1538 to 1664.

Baptism.

- | | | |
|-------------|-----|--|
| 1539, May | 11. | Margery d. of Thos. Playstyde & Elizabeth his wife. |
| 1541, Feb. | 26. | Richard Pleysteed, sonne of Thomas Pleystyde & Elizabeth his wife. |
| 1545, April | 4. | (prae nomen de) Playstyde sonne of Thomas Pleysteed and Elizabeth his wife. |
| 1562, Feb. | 28. | Joane Playsteed daughter of Thomas Playsteed. |
| 1564, Dec. | 17. | Elizabeth Playsteed daughter of Thomas Playsteed. |
| 1568, Dec. | 25. | Thomas Playster sonn of Thomas Playster of Elton. |
| 1571, Mar. | 9. | Margaret Playstyde dau. of Thomas Playstyde the younger of Elton. |
| 1573, June | 24. | Margaret Playster daughter of John Playster. |
| 1578, May | 20. | Sara ye daughter of William Playster. |
| 1579, Jan. | 24. | Dorothy daughter of Thomas Playster the younger. |
| 1581, June | 23. | bastard dau. of Margery Playstead and supposed to be Richard Ryders. |
| 1582, Feb. | 16. | Margaret the daughter of Wm. Pleysteed. |
| 1583, April | 21. | Alexander sonne of John Playster. |
| 1584, Dec. | 16. | Jane daughter of John Playster. |
| 1585, July | 3. | Richard sonne of William Playster. |
| 1585, Oct. | 24. | Mary daughter of Christopher Playster. |
| 1587, Oct. | 1. | Jane daughter of John Playsteed. |
| 1587, Feb. | 20. | Thomas sonne of Christopher Playsteed. |
| 1589, May | 10. | Thomas sonne of William Playsteed. |

- 1590, Jan. 20. Nicholas sonne of John Playsted the younger.
 1593, April 22. William son of John Playsteed.
 1594, Aug. 18. Mary daughter of William Playsteed.
 1595, April 13. Sara daughter of Christopher Playsteed.
 1604, July 8. Robert son of John Playstid, Junior.
 1608, Mar. 6. Sara the daughter of John Playstid.
 1608, Jan. Anthony sonne of John Plaister Junior, shipwright Bap. at Flaxley.
 1610, Sept. 16. Thomas the sonne of John Playster junior of Elton.
 1611, Oct. 20. Agnes the daughter of John Playster the fisherman of Elton.
 1613, May 24. Edward the sonne of John Playster shipwrighte.
 1613, Mar. 6. Johanne the daughter of Alexander Playster.
 1615, Mar. 26. Jane the daughter of Thomas Playster of Broad Oak.
 1616, May 9. John the sonne of Alexander Playster of Elton.
 1616, Nov. 3. Anne the daughter of John Playster, fisherman.
 1616, Feb. 16. Danyell sonne of John Playster Shippeman.
 1618, Nov. 29. Christopher, the sonne of Thomas Playster.
 1619, June 20. Thomas the sonne of Alexander Playster.
 1619, Aug. 8. Margaret the daughter of John Playster, shipwrighte.
 1621, Feb. 24. Agnes the daughter of Alexander Playster.
 1624, Feb. 13. John the sone of John Playster, Shipwrighte.
 1626, Nov. 10. John the sonne of Thomas Plaister of Elton.
 1627, July 27. Roger the sonne of Mr. Anthony Pleyster.
 1642, Oct. 16. Daniell the sonn of Robert Plaister & Joan his wife.
 1644, Feb. 2. John ye son of Robert Plaister & Joan his wife.
 1649, Feb. 24. John & } sonn and daughter of Christopher
 Elinor } Plaister of Elton.
 1650, Feb. 9. Thomas the sonne of Christopher Plaister of Broadoaks.

Marriages.

- 1560, Nov. 20. Thomas Playster and Anne.
 1576, Sept. 17. Wm. Playsteed and Elizabeth Hyde.
 1580, Feb. 6. Wm. Playsteed and Elizabeth Addams.
 1584, Nov. 16. Christopher Playster and Elizabeth.
 1604, April 25. Richard Moore of Bosley and Katheryn Playsted.
 1612, July 6. Alexander Playster and Elizabeth North.
 1612, Jan. 28. John Wylkins and Jane Playster.
 1614, July 10. Thomas Playster and Anne Baddam.
 1615, Nov. 2. Thomas Bradford and Mary Playster.
 1620, Mar. 7. Nicholas Playster and Bridged Aylway.

Burial.

- 1579, Mar. 18. John the son of Wm. Pleysted (or "r").
 1579, Dec. 7. Elizabeth the wife of Wm. Playster.
 1583, June 14. Harry Playster an old man.
 1583, July 6. Harry Playster a old man [*sic*].
 1584, July 19. Agnes the wife of Thomas Playster the younger.
 1584, Dec. 25. Jane Daughter of John Playster.
 1585, Oct. 11. Thomas Playster. (WILL.)
 1586, June 22. John the sonne of John Playster.
 1586, Jan. 3. Thomas Playsted the elder. (WILL.)
 1586, Mar. 5. Katheryn Playsted.
 1590, Mar. 17. Joane daughter of Christopher Playster.
 1593, April 29. Farnell wife of John Playsted.
 1595, June 5. Margaret Playsted.
 1595, Feb. 7. Robert the sone of John Playsted.
 1597, April 7. Christopher Playster.
 1605, April 5. John son of Elizabeth Playsted, widow.
 1607, Jan. 29. William Playsted of Westbury (Hosyer).
 1618, Mar. 12. John Playster of Elton (Fisherman).
 1620, Dec. 25. John Playster senior of Elton, Shipwright.
 1621, Feb. 26. Agnes the daughter of Alexr. Playster.
 1621, Nov. 21. Anne the wife of Thomas Playster of Elton.
 1622, June 23. servante to John Plaister of Elton.
 1622, June 25. Anne Playster of Elton widowe.
 1622, Jan. 3. Elizabeth the wife of John Playster Shipwright.
 1627, Oct. 12. Thomas Playster of Elton.
 1628, April 23. Thomas Playster servant to James Hyde of
 Elton.
 1632, Oct. 25. John the son of Alexander Playster.
 1650, Jan. 18. Elizabeth wife of Alexr. Plaisted.

II. From Register which includes :

Baptism : 1657 to 1752.*Marriages* : 1664 to 1754.*Burial* : 1664 to 1752.*Baptism.*

- 1668, Aug. 8. Elenor dau. of Christopher Plaister.
 1670, April 9. Mary daughter of Christopher Plaister Junr.
 1672, April 28. Mary daughter of Christopher Plaisted Junr.
 1686, July 12. the son of Thos. Plaister and his wife.
 1687, Oct. 9. Ann daughter of Thomas Playsted and Elizth.
 his wife.
 1692, July 3. Thomas son of Thomas Plaistedd of Broadocke.
 1698, Oct. 23. John ye son of Robert Plaister & Anne.
 1715, Oct. 9. Thomas ye son of Danl. Playstead and Mary.
 1717, Oct. 6. John ye Son of Christopher Playsted.

- 1718, Nov. 9. Elizth. ye daughter of Danl. Playstead and Mary.
 1719, Aug. 9. Christopher ye son of Chris. Playstead.
 1721, Dec. 8. Anne ye daughter of Chris. Playsted and Anne.
 1722, Mar. 10. Mary ye daughter of Danl. Playsted and Mary.
 1727, Dec. 10. Eliz. daughter of Chris. Playster and Jane.
 1728, Jan. 7. Iddeth daughter of Daniel Playsteed and Sarah.
 1731, April 11. Roger son of Daniel Playsteed and Sarah.
 1745, Feb. 9. Richard son of John and Mary Playsted.
 1748, Mar. 1. John son of Thos. and Anne Playsted.
 1750, April 4. Mary daughter of John and Mary Playsted.
 1752, Oct. 29. Mary daughter of Thomas and Anne Playsted.
 1752, Dec. 28. John son of John and Mary Playster.

Marriages.

- 1676, Nov. 29. Alex. Playster and Avis Mathews of this parish.
 1703, Nov. 11. Alex. Plaisted and Sarah Elliott.
 1726, Mar. 26. Christopher Playsted and Jane Bayleye of Newnham.
 1727, Aug. 3. Daniel Playsteed and Sarah Constans.
 1747, April 22. Thos. Playsted and Anne Young.

Burial.

- 1666, Dec. 30. Christopher, son of Christopher Plaisted senr.
 1670, Dec. 11. Daniell Plaister of Elton.
 1671, Oct. 30. Alice the wife of Daniell Plaister of Elton.
 1692, Sept. 26. Elinor Plaisted widdow.
 1696, May 17. John son of Alexr. Playster.
 1699, Jan. 23. Elizth. wife of Jhon (*faded*) or Thos. Plaister.
 1700, Jan. 29. Robert Playster.
 1700, Aug. 11. Elizth. ye daughter of Thos. Playsted.
 1705, Oct. 5. John Plaister of Elton.
 1722, Feb. 6. Ann daughter of Christopher Playsted and Anne.
 1723, Sept. 11. John son of Christopher Playsted and Anne.
 1724, May 1. Mary wife of Daniell Playsted.
 1725, Sept. 19. Anne wife of Christopher Playsted.
 1728, Jan. 7. Alexr. Playsted.
 1733, Sept. 15. dau. of Daniel Playsted and Sarah.
 1734, Oct. 24. Daniel Playsted of Elton.

Baptism : 1756 to 1812.

- 1756, Aug. 15. Thos. son of Thomas & Ann Plaisteed.
 1759, Mar. 4. John son of Roger & Hannah Playsteed.
 1762, April 25. Daniel son of Roger & Hannah Playstead.
 1772, Feb. 9. John son of Richard & Rachel Playster.

- 1773, Sept. 5. Mary dau. of Richard & Rachel Playsted.
 1775, Feb. 19. Sarah dau. of Richard & Rachel Playsted.
 1803, Aug. 7. Jemima dau. of Thos. & Elizabeth Playstead.
 1809, April 23. Esther dau. of Thos. & Elizabeth Plaisted.

Baptism : 1813 to 1900.

- 1824, Dec. 12. John son of William & Mary Plaisted, Labourer.
 1826, Nov. 19. Richard, son of Richard & Sarah Plaisted of Westbury, Labourer.
 1828, Dec. 28. Ann, dau. of William & Mary Plaisted, Westbury Labourer.
 1831, April 24. William son of William & Mary Playstead, Labourer.
 1833, June 7. Elizabeth dau. of William & Mary Playstead, Labourer.
 1835, Sept. 19. James, son of William & Mary Playstead, Westbury, Labourer.
 1838, Jan. 21. Mary, dau. of William & Mary Playstead, Westbury, Labourer.
 1840, April 12. William, son of William & Mary Playstead, Westbury Labourer.
 1842, Dec. 25. Charles, son of William & Mary Playstead, Westbury, Labourer.
 1846, Feb. 15. Harriett, dau. of William & Mary Playstead, Westbury, Labourer.
 1851, Aug. 31. Tom son of John and Elizabeth Plaistead, Labourer.
 1853, Feb. 20. William son of John and Elizabeth Plaistead, Westbury, Labourer.
 1866, April 2. Geo. William, son of Charles & Elizabeth Plaisted, Westbury, Labourer.

Marriages : 1754 to 1852.

- 1771, April 24. John Selwyn and Mary Playsted.
 1787, Nov. 25. Joseph Playstead and Mary Sinderby.
 1824, Sept. 26. William Plaisted and Mary Davis, by Banns. Mark of John Plaisted, witness.
 1847, Dec. 16. James Trigg and Ann Plaisted (minor) of Westbury. Father, Wm. Plaisted, Labourer.
 1851, Oct. 16. Charles Ayland and Elizth. Plaisted (minor) of Westbury. Father, Wm. Plaisted, Labourer.

Burial : 1756 to 1812.

- 1759, Jan. 28. John Plaister.
 1763, Oct. 2. Mary wife of John Playster.
 1763, June 30. Daniel son of Roger & Hannah Playster.
 1780, April 24. John son of Roger Plaistead.
 1783, May 30. Mary daughter of John Plaistead.

- 1794, Feb. 8. Roger Plaisted, aged 63.
 1798, Jan. 22. Ann Playster, aged 78.
 1803, Jan. 30. Thomas Playsted, aged 87.
 1809, Nov. 27. Richard Plaisted, aged 63.

Burial : 1813 to 1900.

- 1814, July 9. Jemima Playsted, of Westbury, aged 11.
 1831, May 25. William Playstead, infant.
 1832, May 5. Charles Playstead, infant.
 1834, May 27. Elizth. Playsted, aged 67, of Hundred of St. Braivels.
 1843, Oct. 3. William Plaistead, Westbury, aged 3.
 1850, July 25. Thomas Plaistead, aged 25, Westbury, drowned.
 1869, April 12. John James Plaisted, Westbury, infant.
 1872, Jan. 22. James Charles Plaisted, Westbury, aged 1.
 1874, Oct. 29. Thomas Plaisted, Westbury, aged 84.
 1879, Feb. 10. William Playsted, East Dean, aged 77.
 1882, May 6. John Plaisted, Westbury, aged 57.

NEWNHAM-ON-SEVERN

First General Register, 1547-1703

- 1632, Nov. 8. Philippus Carpenter et Emma Playster nupt fuerunt.

Baptism : 1703 to 1748.

- 1729, July 13. John son of Thos. and Mary Plaisted.
 1731, Oct. 23. Thos. son of Thos. and Mary Plaisted.
 1733, Feb. 21. Sarah of Cristofor Playster.
 1733, Oct. 5. Mary of Thos. Plaister.
 1735, Feb. 6. Thos. of Thos. Plaisters.
 1740, Dec. 20. Thos. of Thos. and Mary Plaisted.
 1744, July 15. Ann of Thos. & Dor: Plaister.
 1747, July 13. Christopher of Thos. & Dorot: Plaisted.

Baptism : 1748 to 1783.

- 1748, Feb. 2. Thos. of Thos. & Dor. Plaisted.
 1750, Mar. 31. Elizabeth of Thos. & Dor. Plaisted.
 1752, Mar. 15. Richard of Thos. & Dor. Plaisted.
 1753, Nov. 25. Mary of John & Betty Plaisted.
 1754, Feb. 4. James of Thos. & Dorothy Plaisted.
 1755, Feb. 2. Sarah of John and Betty Plaisted.
 1756, Sept. 2. John of John and Betty Playsted.
 1757, Feb. 21. Chris. of Thos. & Dor. Plaisted.
 1759, Aug. 17. Thos. of John and Betty Playsted.
 1764, Jan. 5. William of John and Betty Playsted.
 1765, Aug. 18. Joseph of Thos. & Deborah Playsted.

1767, June 9.	Mary of Thos. & Deborah Playsted.
1769, Mar. 5.	John of Thos. & Deborah Playsted.
1771, June 16.	Betty of Thos. & Deborah Playsted.
1772, Dec. 9.	Nancy of Thos. & Deborah Playsted.
1775, Feb. 14.	Thos. of Thos. & Deborah Playsted.
1776, Dec. 26.	Martha of Richd. & Rachel Playsted.
1777, June 8.	Sarah of Thos. & Deborah Playsted.
1778, April 19.	William of Ricd. and Rachel Playsted.
1779, Nov. 21.	Richard of Richard and Rachel Playsted.
1779, June 27.	William of Thos. & Deborah Playsted.
1780, June 9.	Phebe of Richd. and Rachel Playsted.
1782, Jan. 1.	Jane of Richd. and Rachel Playsted (in Little- dean Parish Register).

Baptism : 1783 to 1812.

1785, May 29.	Thomas of Richard and Rachel Playsted.
1786, May 28.	William of Richard and Rachel Playsted.
1789, Jan. 6.	Samuel of Richard and Rachel Playsted.
1791, Feb. 12.	Daniel of Richard and Rachel Playsted.
1791, June 21.	John of John and Elizabeth Playsted.
1793, Aug. 11.	Joseph of Richd. & Rachel Playsted.
1793, Nov. 10.	Elizabeth of John and Elizabeth Playsted.
1795, Feb. 16.	Elizabeth of Chrisr. and Mary Playsted.
1796, Feb. 17.	Thos. of John and Elizabeth Playsted.
1797, April 3.	Mary of Chrisr. and Mary Playsted.
1798, Oct. 15.	Ann of John and Elizabeth Playsted.
1799, Sept. 16.	Ann of Chrisr. and Mary Playsted.
1801, May 18.	Sarah of John and Betty Playsted.
1803, May 18.	Caroline daughter of Chrisr. and Mary Playsted.
1804, April 2.	Amelia daughter of John and Betty Playsted.
1806, Nov. 6.	Matilda daughter of John and Elizabeth Playsted.
1809, Sept. 24.	Joseph son of John and Betty Playsted.
1812, July 5.	Willm. son of John and Betty Playsted.

Baptism : 1813 to 1837.

1826, Dec. 17.	Mary Ann daughter of Thos. & Anne Playsted.
1828, Aug. 24.	Maria, dau. of Thos. & Anne Plaisted (Ayleford).
1829, Aug. 15.	Ellen Buchanan, daughter of John and Eliza- beth Playsted.
1832, June 6.	John son of John and Elizabeth Playsted.
1834, April 20.	Mary Davis dau. of John & Elizabeth Plaisted.

Baptism : 1837 to 1901.

1839, Sept. 22.	Harriet Ann of John & Elizabeth Playsted, Newnham, Schoolmaster.
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- 1849, Aug. 12. Caroline of John & Elizabeth Playster (or *d*),
Labourer, Newnham.
- 1861, April 3. John of John & Mary Playsted, Draper,
Newnham.
- 1863, Jan. 28. Caroline Hannah of John & Mary Playsted,
Draper Newnham.
- 1864, Aug. 23. Joseph Henry of John & Mary Playsted,
Grocer & Draper, Newnham.
- 1866, Aug. 5. James Philpotts of John & Mary Playsted,
Grocer & Draper, Newnham.
- 1869, June 6. Edwina Elizth. of John & Mary Playsted,
Draper Newnham.
- 1886, April 25. Dorothy Mary of John & Ellen Playsted, of St.
Luke's, Hammersmith, Furrier.
- 1888, May 22. Florence Margery of John & Ellen Jemima
Playsted of Kilburn, Commercial Traveller.
- 1890, Dec. 7. John of Joseph Henry & Helena Louisa
Playsted of Newnham, Draper.
- 1898, Oct. 2. Bertha Margaret of James Philpotts & Ada
Bertha Elizth Playsted of Newnham, Draper.
- 1901, July 28. Muriel Mary of James Philpotts & Ada Bertha
Elizth. Playsted of Newnham, Draper.

Marriages :

- 1742, Feb. 10. Thos. Plaisted and Dorothy Bennett, by
Licence.
- 1753, Jan. 12. John Plaisted and Betty Wilkins, by Banns.
- 1764, July 29. James Hill and Ann Plaisted.
- 1767, May 12. James Wintle and Dorothy Plaisted.
- 1770, Dec. 28. John Plaistead and Elizabeth Horington.
- 1771, Oct. 16. Richard Plaistead (Parish of Westbury) and
Rachel Selwyn. (signs Richard Playsted.)
- 1772, Feb. 16. Thomas Plaisted and Elizabeth Thompson.
- 1783, Feb. 19. John Playstead & Elizabeth Playsted, by
Banns.
- 1790, July 11. John Playsted and Elizabeth Holder.
- 1792, April 19. Christopher Plaisted and Mary Bodel.

Marriages :

- 1820, Sept. 9. William White of St. Braivell's & Mary Plaisted
of Newnham. Witness : C. Plaisted, &c.
- 1821, April 16. Thos. Hodges & Elizth. Plaisted, widow of
Newnham, by Licence. Witness : Amelia
Playsted, &c.
- 1825, Dec. 29. Thos. Playsted & Anne Hewlett, by Licence.
Witness : John Playsted, &c.
- 1827, Aug. 25. Richard White of St. Braivell's & Caroline
Plaisted, by Licence.

- 1858, Oct. 5. John Playsted, Draper ; Father John Playsted, Gent, and Mary Philpotts ; Father Joseph Philpotts, Druggist, Witness : Mary Davis Playsted.
- 1895, May 30. George Henry Roberts, Accountant (23), of Whitchurch, Cardiff, and Edwina Elizabeth Playsted, (26), of Newnham. Father John Playsted, Grocer & Draper (deceased). Witness : Mary Sorsbie Playsted, &c.
- 1896, Sept. 21. James Philpotts Playsted, (30), Draper, Newnham : Father John Playsted, Draper, and Ada Bertha Elizabeth Roberts (20). Witness : Mary S. Playsted.

Burial : 1703 to 1783.

- 1732, April 16. Thomas Plaisted Junr.
- 1733, Feb. 23. Sarah of Cristerfor Plaister.
- 1736, July 21. Chrisr. Plaister.
- 1741, Jan. 7. Mary Plaisted.
- 1742, June 30. Thos. Plaisted.
- 1754, June 10. Mary Plaisted.
- 1751, April 18. Elizth. of Thos. Plaisted.
- 1754, Jan. 4. Mary of John Plaisted.
- 1754, Feb. 10. James of Thos. Plaisted.
- 1755, Aug. 22. Christopher of Thos. Plaisted.
- 1755, Sept. 22. Sarah of John Plaisted.
- 1758, July 26. Thos. Plaisted.
- 1764, June 3. William of John Plaisted.
- 1770, Mar. 2. Betty Playsted. (*Monument in Ghurch.*)
- 1772, Aug. 2. William Playsted.
- 1774, July 6. Betty Plaisted.
- 1779, June 11. Thos. Playsted.
- 1783, April 2. George Playstead.

Burial : 1783 to 1812.

- 1783, Nov. 22. Thos. son of John Playsted. (*Monument in Church.*)
- 1784, June 9. Phoebe dau. of Richard & Rachel Playsted.
- 1785, Aug. 22. Christopher Playsted.
- 1789, Dec. 27. Eliz. wife of John Playsted, aged 60.
- 1805, Nov. 29. John Playsted, aged 77.
- 1806, Jan. 5. Thos. Playsted, infant.

Burial : 1813 to 1845.

- 1814, Mar. 18. Chrisr. Playsted (Awre), aged 58.
- 1817, April 24. John Playsted (Awre), aged 60.
- 1820, Mar. 20. Elizth. Playsted, aged 90 (?).
- 1829, Oct. 21. James Playsted, aged 75.

- 1831, Feb. 3. Mary Ann Playsted (Aylesford), aged 4.
 1836, May 17. Louisa Playstead (Brains Green), aged 4.
 1839, Feb. 28. Harriett Ann Playsted, aged 6 months.
 1844, April 19. William Playsted, aged 32.

Register of Burial, 1845 to 1920.

- 1864, Dec. 2. Caroline Philpotts Playsted of Newnham,
 aged 2.
 1865, Mar. 20. John Playsted of Newnham, aged 73.
 1870, Sept. 13. Elizth. Playsted of South Hamlet, Gloucester,
 aged 69.
 1871, Oct. 1. Mary Plaisted of Newnham, aged 21 or 71.
 1887, Mar. 15. John Playsted of Newnham, aged 54.
 1919, Sept. 3. James Philpotts Playsted of High Street,
 Newnham, aged 53.

FLAXLEY

The register has been examined from 1575 to 1870.

Baptism.

- 1861, June 9. Mary Jane d. of Chas. & Elizth. Plaisted of
 East Dean.
 1862, July 20. Ellen Eliz. d. of John & Elizth. Plaisted of
 Westbury.
 1863, Sept. 27. Harriet Gertrude d. of Chas. & Elizth. Plaistead
 of East Dean.

Marriage.

- 1862, Mar. 4. William Plaistead, widower, of East Dean,
 labourer, married Mary Heavens, widow, of
 East Dean: father Thomas Plaisted, labourer.

EXTRACTS FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS OF CO. GLAM LLANMAES

- 1736, Dec. 24. Edward Plaisted of Flemingston & Elizabeth
 Thomas married.
 1737, Sept. 29. Elizabeth daughter of Edward Plaisteed &
 Elizabeth baptized.
 1741, Jan. 6. Alexander, son of Edward & Elizabeth Plaisteed
 baptized.
 1766, Oct. 14. Alexander son of Mr. Alexander Plaisteed by
 Barbara his wife was baptized.
 1768, April 6. Edward son of Mr. Alexr. Plaisteed & Barbara
 his wife was baptized.
 1769, Oct. 24. Richard Basset Plaisteed son of Alexr.
 Plaisteed by Barbara his wife baptized.

- 1771, July 6. Charles son of Mr. Alexr. Plaisted by Barbara his wife baptized.
- 1773, June 18. Charles son of Mr. Alexr. Plaisted by Barbara his wife baptized.
- 1776, May 10. John son of Alexr. Plaisted by Barbara his wife baptized.
- 1777, Sept. 6. Barbara Basset Plaisted daughter of Alexr. and Barbara Plaisted baptized.
- 1771, Feb. 11. Edward Plaisted buried.
- 1771, July 13. Charles son of Mr. Alexr. & Barbara Plaisted buried.
- 1772, Feb. 8. Elizabeth Plaisted, widow, buried.
- 1776, Oct. 5. John son of Alexr. Plaisted by Barbara his wife buried.
- 1782, Jan. 26. Alexr. Plaisted buried.
- 1799, April 15. Barbara Plaisted, widow of the late Mr. Alexr. Plaisted Gent. was buried aged 63.
- 1813, May 21. Mr. Richard Plaisted Bachelor & substantial Householder, Llanmaes, aged 42.
- 1837, Oct. 9. Alexr. Plaisted, Surgeon, aged 71 years.
- 1843, Jan. 4. Mary, widow, of Mr. Alexr. Plaisted, Gent, Surgeon of Llanmaes Villa, buried, aged 74.
- 1849, Dec. 31. Charles Plaisted, Bachelor, Llanmaes village buried, age 77.

ABSTRACTS OF WILLS, ETC., GLOUCESTERSHIRE
AND GLAMORGANSHIRE, 1585-1813

*Abstract of Will of Thomas Plaister of Westbury, Co. Gloucester,
Husbandman, Dated 1st May, 1585*

My body to be buried in Churchyard of Westbury.

I give to Thomas my son £3.

I give unto Daniell my Son all unexpired term of years of a lease I hold of John Mawsome.

I give to Katherine my daughter 40s., and various articles of household goods.

I give unto Elizabeth my daughter 40s., and also various articles of household goods.

I give unto Agnes my daughter £3 and a silver pin.

I give unto Dorrytie my daughter £3 and a payer of silver tach hooks.

Residuary legatee and Executor : John my son.

Overseers : Richard Pumphyre and Harrye Howslen. Gives to each of them 4*d.* for their paines.

Witnesses : RICHARD BRIDGE CLARK, RICHARD WEALE alias PUMPHREY, HARRY HOWSLEN, SIMOND A. GWILLM, RICHARD COOKE with others.

Proved 10th March, 1585/6.

(Gloucester Probate Registry.)

*Nuncupative Will of Thomas Playstead of Elton in Parish of
Westbury, Co. Gloucester, Fisherman, now Deceased, in his
Lifetime, the 30th December, 1586*

He gave to the poore to accompany his body to the earth 40s.

He gave to Roger Ailway his Son a fishing boat and one half of his fishing putts &c., 4s. 6*d.*, in money and a fryse coat.

He gave John Ayley his Cosen the Son of Roger Ayley one payer of knit stockens.

He gave to Jone Ayley the daughter of Roger one payer of sheetes.

He gave to his six godchildren 6s., in money.

He gave to Christopher Playsted his Cosen a coate &c., &c.

He made his Son John Sole executor and gave to him all the residue of his estate.

Made in the presence of THOMAS NEVETT (?), THOMAS PACKER and JOHN RYDER.

Proved 24th February, 1587.

(Gloucester Probate Registry.)

Nuncupative Will of William Plaistid of Westbury, Co. Gloucester, Hosyer, who Died 28th January, 1607

Made his will unto us whom he appointed his Overseers on the 18th January.

My will is that all my goods and household shall be equally divided among my five children, viz:—To Sarah Plaistid, Margaret Plaistid, Richard Playsted, Thomas Playsted and Mary Playsted, by equal portions, and that Margaret Playsted my daughter and Thomas Playstid my son shall be my executors.

And I pray you my friends Thomas Taylor Roger Peerse and John Mirement to be my overseers and give each of you 3s. 4d., apiece.

Proved at Gloucester 29th February.

(Gloucester Probate Registry.)

Abstract of Will of John Playsted of Elton, Westbury, Co. Gloucester, Labourer, Dated 17th March, 1618

My body to be buried in Church yard of Westbury.

I give to my daughter Doriti Playsted, Cowe &c.

To my daughter Joyce Playsted heifer.

To my daughter Jane Playsted a calf.

To my daughter Anes Playsted a calf.

To my son Daniell Playsted a calf.

To my son Micklose Playsted a platter.

My will is that Thomas Horne shall enjoy the grant of land I have granted him and his wife.

Residuary legatee and executrix: My Wife Anes Playsted.

Proved at Littledean 7th June, 1619 by Executrix.

(Gloucester Probate Registry.)

Will of Nicholas Playsteed of Westbury, Co. Gloucester, Weaver, Dated 23rd February, 1651

Nicholas Playsteed of Cleeve within the tything of Westbury, in Co. Glos., Weaver. Sick in body but of sound and parfitt memory. I thank God therefor. I doe nowe at this present time make and ordayne this my last will and testament in manner and sort following. That is to say first of all I doe commend my sole into the hands of Almighty God my Creator and redeemer by whose precious merritt I wholly trust for to be saved and after this life for to live with him in his heavenly kingdome in a happie estatt for ever and my bodie for to be interred in the Churchyard

of Westbury aforesaid in such sort and manner as shall be correspondent to my estate and degree.

Item : I give unto BRIDGETT my nowe wife all my estate tearme and interest which I have shall or may leave of and in that messuage and tenement, yard &c. and the fower acres of land thereunto joyninge in Clieve, within the aforesaid parish of Westbury and now in my owne use and occupation.

Item : I doe allsoe give unto my aforesaid wife all my estate &c. that I have in three acres of arable land lying and being in a field commonly called Whirkrepes Marsh being now also in my own use and occupation.

Item : I give unto my kinsman William Bibey my best hose and my best coate and my best stokens and my best band and my best shirt and my red waistcoat.

Item : I give unto my kinsman John North one hoxe head that he nowe have in his own use and occupation.

Item : I give unto my kinsman Richard Ayleway after the decease of me and my wife my yron sider mill that is now in my owne use and occupation.

Item : I give unto my said kinsman Richard Ayleway the residue of the yeares of that lease of my house and 4 acres of land thereunto adjoininge if I and my wife shall not live out the yeares of my lease that is expressed in that one Indenture.

Item : All the rest of my goode cattle and chattels and things whatsoever hereby not before mentioned or intended to be given item I give unto my said wife whom I make sole executor and she is to prove the same deliver my legacies and gifts.

Overseers : Joseph Bellamy and John Badger.

Signed NICHOLAS PLAYSTEED.

In presence of JOSEPH BELLAMY, JOHN BADGER.

Proved 4th May, 1652.

(*Somerset House Bowyer 87.*)

Abstract of Will of Bridgett Playsted of Cleeve, Co. Gloucester, Widow, Dated 6th October, 1656

In the Name of God Amen. October 6th, Anno 1656. Imprimis.

I Bridgett Playsted of Cleeve within the parish of Westbury, in the county of Gloucester, widow, doe make and ordaine this my last will and testament, being sicke of body but of good and perfect remembrance (thanks be to God).

Item. I commend my soule to Almighty God my maker and Redeemer, and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Westbury.

Gives and bequeaths the following :

To my kinsman Thomas Ayleway the sonne of Thomas Ayleway my table board and frame and my great sheet.

To my kinsman Jane the daughter of Zachary Wintle five shillings.

To my brother John Ayleway five shillings.

To my sister-in-law Alice Ayleway five shillings.

To my kinswoman Elizabeth Harper my second best paire of sheets.

To William Harper's three children 5s. each.

To my sister Margery Tive my short old coate.

To my godson the son of Robert Playsted 5s.

To my kinsman Jonathan Ayleway one hoggshead.

To the two younger sons of Jonathan Ayleway, namely Jonathan and Joseph 2s. 6d. each.

To my kinswoman Jane Ayleway 40s. in money, one bed, one bolster, one paire sheets, one blankett, one white coverlett, one truckle bedstead with the cord my Crocke or pott with all my wearing apparrell her house corne in the house I now dwell with one bushell of bread corne yearly to be given her so long as the terme of the lease of the said house indureth and also one vessell to put her drinke in.

To Daniel Playsted 20s.

To Judith Ayleway my great barrell and 5s.

To the fower children of John North 10s. a piece.

To Jonathan the eldest sone of John Ayleway my cupboard standynge in the hall.

To Priscilla the wife of Robert Wintle one barrell.

To my kinswoman Jane Ayleway an old coffer.

To my kinswoman Joyce Wintle 2s. 6d.

The several sums to be paid within 6 months after decease.

Gives all other goods &c., not mentioned to "my kinswoman Susanna Ayleway" whom she makes executrix.

Overseers: Joseph Bellamy, Jonathan Ayleway.

The mark of Bridgett Playsted.

In presence of ROBERT STEVENS (seal) ELIZ. ARTHURS, THO. COMLEY.

Proved in London 20th November, 1657.

(P.C.C. Ruthen 486.)

Abstract of Will of John Playsted of Coleford, Co. Gloucester, Yeoman, Dated 25th April, 1709

I give to my daughter Elianor now wife of Edward Smith land in Coleford called Dawnes Deaze for life, and after her decease to my Grandson John Court son of my daughter Eleanor and John Court her former husband deceased, the said John Court paying to Elizabeth Elly daughter of Thomas Elly deceased formerly another husband of my said daughter £10 and also he to pay to Richard Smith Son of my daughter Elianor by said Edward Smith 40s. at the age of 21.

I give to my kinsman Henry Taylor and William Yerworth of Coleford Yeomen my land near Coleford called Tufton and house lately built thereon upon trust to pay out of the rents &c. to Thomas Playsted my kinsman 40s. And whereas my grandson James Tanner Son of Robt. Tanner of Coleford Inn-keeper by Dorothy his late Wife my other daughter is now an infant about 6 years old Trustees to pay for his support and apprenticeship and when said James Tanner shall be 21 years then said land &c. to be conveyed to him.

Gifts of furniture &c. to said Robert Tanner also that £7 be spent on his funeral.

Executors: said Henry Taylor and William Yarworth, and I give to each of them a pair of gloves as a token of my love.

mark of John Playsted.

Witnesses: JAMES YEARWORTH; JOHN RAVENHILL; THOS. RICHARDS.

Proved 6th June, 1711 by Henry Taylor and Wm. Yerworth the Executors.

(Gloucester Probate Registry.)

Abstract of Will of Thomas Plaisted of Newnham, Co. Gloucester, Inn-Holder, Dated 27th June, 1742

I give to Thomas Rudge of Weston under Penyard, Hereford, and John Etheridge of the same place Husbandman my 2 messuages &c. in Newnham Upon trust for term of seven years after I devise said messuages to my son John Plaisted.

Trustees to raise £90 and after payment of Mortgage due to Walter Taylor of Newnham to pay the remainder between my three younger children, Mary, George and Thomas Plaistead at respective ages of 21 years.

All my household and all other personal estate I give to said Thomas Rudge and John Etheridge to sell same and after payment of my debts of divide the remainder between my four children, John, Mary, George and Thomas, and

I appoint the said Thomas Rudge and John Etheridge joint Executors.

The mark of Thomas Plaistead X

Witnesses: THOMAS CHUNN, THOMAS JONES, HEN: SHIPMAN Junr.

Proved 5th July, 1742 by Thomas Rudge and John Ethereidge the Joint Executors.

(Gloucester Probate Registry.)

Abstract of Will of John Playstead of Westbury, Co. Gloucester, Yeoman, Dated 24th January, 1759

I give unto my Wife Mary all and singular my real estate during her life if she remains a widow and from and after her decease.

I give unto my eldest son Richard and to his heirs and assigns for ever all my house lands and situate in Cleeve in parish of Westbury he paying unto my son John £30 when my son John shall attain the age of 21 years.

To my son John after decease of my wife my tenements I lately purchased of Mr. Bowman in parish of Westbury.

Residue of personal estate to my Wife for life and after to be equally divided between my son John and my daughter Mary, and

I appoint my Wife Executor of my Will.

Mark of John Playstead X

Witnesses: LANCELOTT CANNOCK, RICHARD CANNOCK, SAML. BROOKS.

Proved 22nd October 1763 by Thomas Playstead and William Marshall the administrators.

(Gloucester Probate Registry.)

Abstract of Will of John Plaisted, M.S. "Wye," Dated 8th December, 1787

I John Plaisted of the town of Newnham of the County of Gloucester, mariner, being of sound and disposing mind and memory, do make this my last will and testament.

I give all my freehold estate to Elizabeth my wife for and during the term of her natural life, and from and after her decease give and devise the same to my Brother Christopher Plaisted and the heirs of his body &c., and in default of such I give and devise to my sister Ann Hill, wife of James Hill, and to her heirs for ever.

I give unto my wife Elizabeth the use of all household furniture &c. After her decease to said brother Christopher.

Gives all residue of personal estate to said wife, chargeable with payment of £50 or an annuity of £5 a year to my said Brother Christopher Plaisted during his life at the option of his wife &c.

Appoints Christopher Plaisted sole executor.

Signed 8th December, 1787.

JOHN PLAISTED.

In presence of JONES: JNO. HODGSON: THO. LEWIS.

Proved at London 20th April, 1797.

(P.C.C. Exeter 264.)

Abstract of the Will of Barbara Plaisteed of the Parish of Lammaes in the County of Glamorgan. Dated 30th June, 1792

The last Will and testament of me Barbara Plaisteed of the parish of Lammaes in the County of Glamorgan widow made 30th June, 1792.

Gives to her two sons Richard Plaisteed and Charles Plaisteed the messuage lands tenements &c. called and known by the

name of Penkelly-Fedi containing in the whole by estimate 100 acres situate in the parish of Coychurch in the said County, and now in the occupation of Richard [illegible] in as large and ample manner as the same will [illegible] by myself and son Alexander Plaisted to my Brother Charles Bassett in trust for me to have and to hold the said messuages &c. unto the said Richard Plaisted and Charles Plaisted as tenants in common and not as joint tenants.

Gives and bequeaths unto "my daughter Barbara Plaisted the sum of three hundred pounds to be paid within twelve months of my decease." Charges the aforesaid estate with the payment of her just debts &c. and the aforesaid legacy.

All rest of estate to Richard and Charles Plaisted.

Appoints them Executors.

(signed) BARBARA PLAISTEED.

In presence of: EDW: POWELL, MORGAN RICHARD, CECILIA SPENCER.

Probate at London 16th September, 1799.

(P.C.C. Howe 675.)

*Will of Richard Plaisted of Lanmaes, Co. Glamorgan, Gentleman,
Dated 9th March, 1813*

THIS IS THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT of me RICHARD PLAISTEED of the parish of Lanmaes in the County of Glamorgan Gentleman made the Ninth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirteen.

I give and devise all and every of my messuages lands tenements and hereditaments whether Freehold Leasehold or Copyhold situate lying and being in the Parish of Lanmaes aforesaid and Hamlet of Peterstone super montern in the parish of Coychurch in the said County of Glamorgan and all other my real Estates whatsoever unto my brother Charles Plaisted his heirs and assigns for ever.

I give and bequeath unto my sister Barbara Plaisted the sum of One hundred pounds to be paid her by my Executor herein named within six calendar months after my decease, with the payment whereof I hereby charge my real Estates herein before devised.

As to for and concerning all the rest residue and remainder of my Goods, Chattels, ready Money, Debts and Securities for Money and all other my personal estate of what nature or kind soever I give and bequeath the same unto my said brother Charles Plaisted his Executors Administrators and Assigns.

And I do hereby constitute and appoint the said Charles Plaisted sole Executor of this my last Will and Testament hereby annulling all Wills by me heretofor made.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seal the day and year first mentioned above.

RICHARD PLAISTEED (L.S.).

Signed Sealed published and declared by the said Richard Plaisteed as and for his last Will and Testament in the present of us who in his presence and at his request have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses.

JOHN GRIFFITH.

ABIGALL MORGAN.

ELIAS BASSET.

Probate granted 23rd June, 1813 to Charles Plaisteed the sole Executor.

(District Registry attached to the Probate Division of His Majesty's High Court of Justice at Llandaff.

"In the Consistory Court of Llandaff.")

Chancery Proceeding, 1742 (Wales ii, Bundle 42, Bills and Answers, Brecon Circuit).—Edward Plaisted late of Flemingston, County Glamorgan, Shipwright, and Children.

The case relates to a dispute in the administration of a Will ; and contains the following particulars :—

" Thomas Morris of the parish of Llanblethian (nr. Cowbridge) in County Glamorgan, yeoman, and Mary his wife one of the five children of Edward Plaisted, late of Flemingston in County Glamorgan deceased and Jane Plaisted an infant of about 18 years one other of the children of the said Edward Plaisted by your Orator and Oratrix Thomas Morris and Mary his wife her next friends. That the said Edward Plaisted being in his life time and at his decease possessed of a personal estate of good value particularly of a great quantity of timber and wood corn in the ground and other valuable effects of and in a Leasehold estate for lives or years of considerable profit above the reserved rent of and in diverse other particulars of the value of £600 in the whole, did sometime before his death make and duly publish his last will and testament and did give and bequeath his house and land in the parish of Flemingston which he held by a freehold lease to his son Edward Plaisted and to your Oratrices his daughters to be held by them for three years, and at the expiration of that time to be held by his said son for the remainder of the said Lease, and the Testator thereby gave to his said son all his household stuff and furniture in his Hall, one chest, a candle, and silver spoons, and devised the residue of his household stuff &c., to all his daughters to be equally divided. His whole stock of cattle sheep horses piggs &c. to be sold to pay his debts, and gave his whole stock of timbers and trees cutt and felled to all his children to be sold and equally divided amongst them, except

£5 thereof which he thereby gave to his grandson from the sale of stock and cattle should be equally divided amongst his four daughters and appointed his son Edward Plaisted and his daughter Cecil, the wife of Theophilus Thomas of in County Glamorgan executors of his will. Soon after your Orator died, leaving the said Edward his only son and your Oratrices and the said Cecill and Ann Plaisted Spinster their Sister his four only Daughters and the said Edward Plaisted and Theophilus Thomas and Cecil his wife proved the said will and possessed the testators personal estate."

(No other genealogical details.)

PLAISTED OF CRICK MANOR

PLAISTED OF CRICK MANOR

THE Manor House of Crick, in the parish of Mathern, where Richard Plaisted I made his home in 1798, lies between Chepstow and Caerwent, and is a place of exceptional interest. Its former splendour has been dimmed by the passage of years, and its ancient importance is forgotten. Few things remain to remind the visitor of vanished affluence. A century ago it was a large farm growing much corn, but only eighty-five acres now remain attached to the Manor House. The rest has been divided among small-holders, who were established there after the Great War by an enterprising County Council, and an arterial road now passes along where once was a winding country highway.

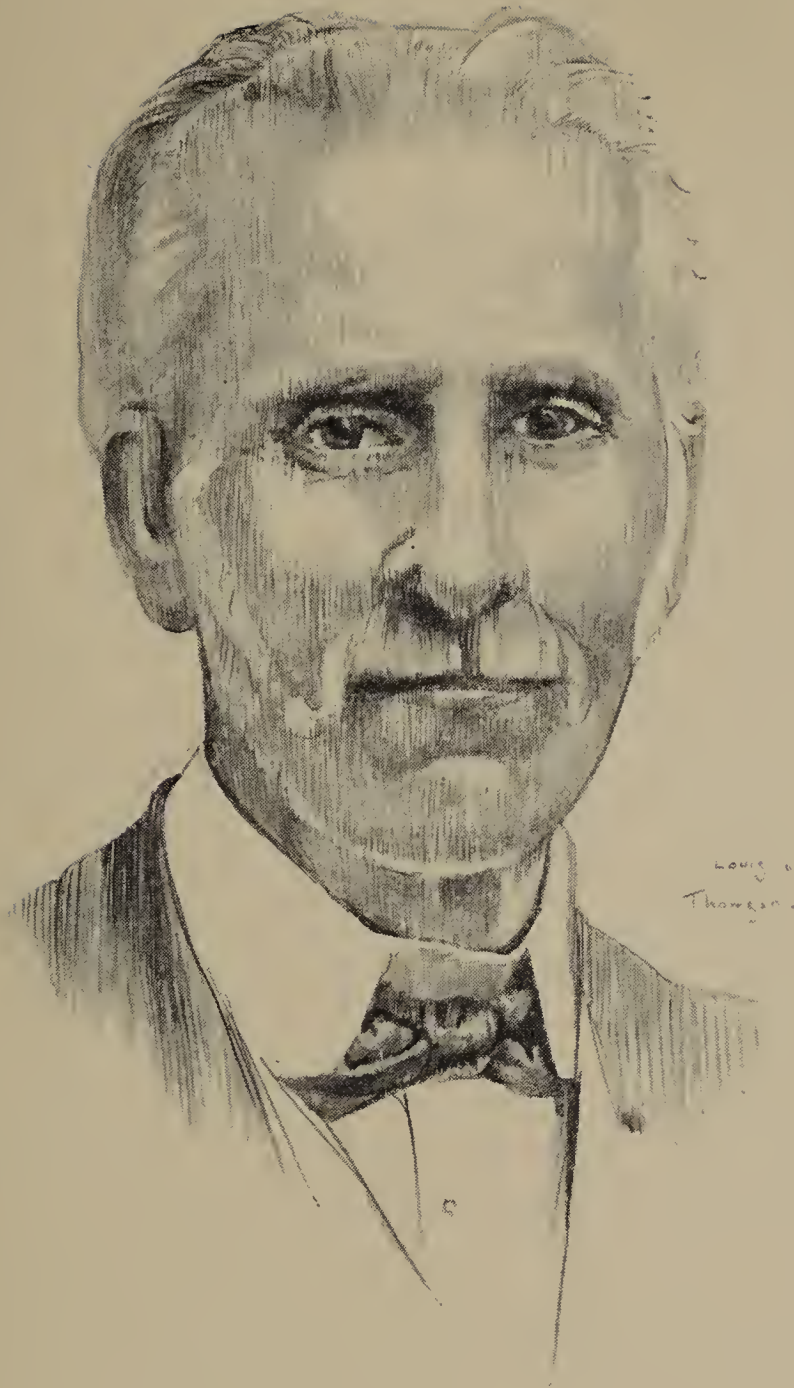
On the north side of the road, about four miles west of Chepstow, stands the Manor House which in those days was the home of the family, but is now shrunken in extent and impoverished in appearance. In the orchard adjoining the foldyard is a square plot of ground surrounded by a moat, where the original house stood in the Middle Ages. It was then a castle or small fortress, erected by William Denford, and out of its demolished materials the present Elizabethan mansion was erected. The windows with their stone mullions appear to be of the early Tudor period. Within the building an ancient fireplace testifies to a departed glory, and across one end of the hall reaches the dais where formerly stood the high table for "the quality."

At this house Charles I was entertained twice during the Civil War by Mr. Moore, who then occupied the mansion. The King came to Crick Manor from Raglan Castle on 22nd July, 1645, to meet Prince Rupert who had crossed from Bristol. A council of war was held at which the King proposed to proceed to Bristol by the New Passage at Portskewett. That night the King returned to Raglan and

Prince Rupert to Bristol. Two days afterwards the King paid a second visit to Crick Manor, narrowly escaping the troops of the Parliamentary Party, who were pursuing him. Arrived at Crick he was informed that Bridgwater had fallen and that his own person was in imminent danger. It was then decided to send some of his suite forward to Bristol, while others would conduct His Majesty to Newport. This plan succeeded in that the enemy soldiers were led to follow the party across the Severn, while the King escaped in safety.

Within a few yards of the Manor House, included in the same group of buildings, may still be seen the Chapel of St. Nefyn of Crick, now used as a barn. St. Nefyn was a daughter of Orien Rheged, a granddaughter of Brychan, and the wife of Cynfarch Oer, all of them well-known characters in the Celtic world. This Chapel appears in history A.D. 1119, and is probably of far greater antiquity, but a glimpse here and there is all we are vouchsafed of its long story. In pre-Reformation days the ministrations at Crick were provided by a Body of Canons, whose duty was also to serve Caerwent and Dinham. Like most private chapels of former ages, it was used principally by the tenants of the Manor and for family functions. It is reported that services were regularly conducted there down to the seventeenth century, and we have it on record that : " On 13th January (1616) Nicholas Moore married Cecil Moore in Cricke Chapell." At the east end of the Chapel are two lancet windows of the Early English type.

This sketch of the past will introduce the home where Richard I and Rachel spent several happy years, from which their sons and daughters went forth to find themselves careers beneath distant horizons. Until the close of the eighteenth century the lands of Crick Manor, brought under cultivation by Richard I, were the unenclosed waste of the lordship. The same kind of thing was happening throughout the whole country. A study of that period reveals innumerable Acts of Enclosure permitting the appropriation of what had been common land, which was being ploughed up for corn and root crops. A state of war in Europe made this country more than ever dependent upon its own resources. The growing demands of an increasing industrial



JOSEPH ALLEN PLAISTED (1840-1903)
*Youngest son of Joseph and Phoebe Plaisted, of Crick Manor,
Mathern; and later of Newport, Mon.*
(See pp. 120-23)

population, and the protection of the home markets, maintained remunerative prices for farm produce. Although those years of prosperity were to be followed by a slump in values which brought ruin to the land, that prospect was not foreseen by a generation having no comparable experience by which to form its judgments. The War with Napoleon was too far afield to be a matter of intimate concern. The early years of last century seem to have blessed Richard I with a goodly increase.

His farm at Mathern extended to 400 acres, and the average rental in the more fertile parts of England was from £1 to £2 an acre. This meant that on such a farm the profits were about £600 a year, for they were reckoned by Sir John Sinclair, the President of the Board of Agriculture, to be exactly equal to the rental. If these profits are capitalised at ten per cent., a basis generally adopted by contemporary authority, then Richard's investment at Crick Manor was worth about £6,000. This was the average wealth of the larger farmers who were then truly representative of the middle class of rural England. The purchasing power of money was at least three times the present value of sterling. Income-tax was a modest imposition introduced by William Pitt as a war-time expedient, which the Government was compelled to drop on the return to peace, as a sop to democratic opinion.

One of the last family functions Richard attended was the double wedding of his two daughters on 13th June, 1809, when Rachel married her cousin James Selwyn of Westbury, and Sarah became the wife of Thomas Parry of Newland. Richard's health at that time seems to have been failing. His will, dated 2nd October, 1809, gives the impression that he anticipated his early decease. This expectation was soon realised, for within two months he had passed to his rest, leaving his younger children still in adolescence. The will of Richard I disposing of his effects charged the estate at Westbury with legacies amounting to £400, to be paid to his five daughters, and a similar charge of £50 to be levied from his son Richard II out of the goods and land which had been bestowed upon him. To Thomas IX he left "the whole of the property he have had of me,"

represented by the portion appropriated to him on his marriage. His sons Samuel and Daniel were to be heirs in common of the property at Crick Manor, with their younger brother Joseph, who was under age at the time of his father's decease. Provision was made for small annuities to his wife and sister, and to his younger son William, who suffered from physical disability, with further gifts to his daughters. He remembered the poor of Westbury and Newnham, according to the injunction impressed upon all Christian souls, and although the desire was not expressed in his will Richard I was laid to rest with his fathers in the churchyard of Westbury-on-Severn.

The conditions prevailing during the next few years brought moderate prosperity to the family, this brighter outlook being assisted by the rising price of corn. From 61s. 8*d.* in May, 1797, the price of the quarter rose to 134s. 5*d.* three years later, and to 156s. 2*d.* in March, 1801. With violent fluctuations it remained at a high figure until 1812, when it returned to 134s. Then came the agricultural landslide of 1816, with labour troubles on the land and rioting in the country districts. Throughout these vicissitudes the household at Crick kept together. The first parting of the ways arose when Samuel took to himself a wife and sought fresh pastures. We have little knowledge of his further history beyond that his descendants of the third generation now live in the neighbourhood of Blaenavon. In 1827 John X, the eldest son and surviving executor of the estate, decided to try his fortune in the United States. About the same time Joseph married Phoebe Roberts of Llanishen, and departed to Llanvaches, three miles westward from Crick. Their brother Daniel remained at home for another seven years, then he also took a wife and removed to the Lower Farm, Caerwent, which left only William (*d.* 1841), with his mother (*d.* 1837), at the old homestead.

These changes in the family life synchronised with a new wave of fashion in the wider world which gradually swamped the antiquated customs of the country. More rapid locomotion brought the habits of the towns to the villages, since when civilisation has never looked backward. The smocked

frock of the rustic began to disappear from common wear, and after a while from Sunday or ceremonial use. In the churchyard at Mathern is a gravestone to John Lee, a well-known character at Crick, who died 21st May, 1825, aged 103 years. He was a pioneer in the modern dress movement, for it is the principal thing recorded about him on his memorial :

John Lee is dead that good old man
We ne'er shall see him more :
He used to wear an old drab coat
All button'd down before.

The first independent trace of Daniel is in 1831, at the Lower Farm, Caerwent, soon after his marriage, when that land was assessed in his name. We know little of his wife except that she possibly came from Wollastone. The returns of 1851 show us Daniel in occupation of 230 acres of land. He was a regular member of the parish vestry, and for some years during the period 1844-59 he was overseer of the poor. The last minute bearing his signature is dated 1862. Not long afterwards, when bad times came upon the land, Daniel retired to Wollastone, where he died twenty years later. His son John was engaged in business at Bristol, and on his decease in 1906 was buried with his father at Caerwent. Daniel had four daughters : Mary who married Reuben Cooke of Varteg, Clara who died in 1867 at Wollastone, also Jane and Ann of whose later history we have no clear knowledge.

In the parish of Llanvaches three daughters and a son John were born to Joseph and Phoebe. Their home in that place, known as Talgarth House, was once a manor and of historical importance. In the opinion of the late Sir Joseph Bradney, Bt., an eminent authority on the archæology of Monmouthshire, the house stands on the site of an ancient castle, the remains of which can still be traced. For about seven years Talgarth House continued to be the dwelling of Joseph and Phoebe, but after the marriage of Daniel they returned to Crick Manor, and continued there until the end of their days. Their five younger children were born at that house, and there in 1841 Phoebe died, soon

after the birth of her youngest son Joseph Allen. Within a few years Joseph married Rebecca, a young widow of Llangibby, who brought with her a daughter Wilhelmina of her first marriage, and Rebecca became a second mother to the young children at Crick Manor.

The turnpike movement, providing the first decent roads in this country, had done something during the eighteenth century to connect the isolated centres of village life and to facilitate overland transport, but travelling was still an expensive luxury as well as a hazardous business. There were few distractions for country dwellers, and even these were of a primitive order. One of the daily thrills of the young family at Crick was the sound of the horn as the mail descended Pwllmeyrick Hill, and to watch the coach racing past the Manor House to Caerwent, where horses were changed for the next stage. The pleasure of purchasing and igniting a box of matches brought to them all the delight of modern fireworks. During their school years at Caldicot the first section of the Great Western Railway to South Wales was being cut through that parish. This part was completed in 1851. We can imagine the excitement stirred in their unspoiled imagination by the appearance of the first steam-engine. The outdoor recreations of their leisure hours were those which have always been associated with country life. They hunted with the Llangibby Hounds, fished in the River Wye, and had the run of whatever shooting could be found over a good range of undulating country.

Towards the middle of the century dark clouds were gathering which brought disaster to the farming industry. The Anti-Corn-Law League was formed (1838) in Manchester, its object being to cheapen food by abolishing the taxes on corn. When finally the Corn Laws were repealed in 1846 it was fortunate indeed for the greater number of the people, especially those in the manufacturing towns, but it ruined many farmers who depended upon the sale of wheat for their profits. Much of the land which while higher prices prevailed had been ploughed and sown went back to grass, and what had been a remunerative business became a precarious livelihood. The stormy years

of the "hungry 'forties," the Chartist Riots of 1848, the darkness of the future, and the political troubles of Europe, served to deepen the depression. Although the prices of agricultural produce took an upward turn in the "'fifties," owing to the discovery of gold overseas, the Crimean War, and other stimulants, one notable effect of these conditions was to accelerate the tide of emigration from rural England.

The eldest son John (1826-1903) spent his younger days on the farm at Crick Manor, but he was not happy in the quiet routine of that narrow circle. The dream of wider worlds to conquer summoned him to launch out into the deep. This opportunity offered when in 1850 he was invited to join his uncle John X at Milo, in the State of New York. He left England with his next brother Henry (1834-53) who shared his aspirations to try out fresh fields of enterprise, and they were followed two years later by William (1833-97). In the neighbourhood of Penn Yan, at first John followed a varied career. He next became a dealer in real estate, which at the close of the Civil War boomed with brighter prospects. Henry took to the world of commerce in America, but his brilliance was cut short by yellow fever in New Orleans, where he had gone on business. William enlisted as a soldier in the Civil War, then was a wanderer in Canada, and finally came to anchor near Centralia, in the State of Missouri. In a few years Cornelius (1836-89) also crossed the Atlantic and settled on the land near Lake Keuka. These all passed to rest in the land of their adoption, where the traditions they helped to establish still remain a deciding element in the melting-pot of a cosmopolitan nation.

A few years after this exodus their sister Jane was married (1st June, 1855) at St. Mary Redcliff Church, Bristol, to George Keddle, a farmer then living at Rockfield, Mon., and they had five children. The last survivor of these was Selwyn G. Keddle, who died at Seneca Mills on Monday, 14th April, 1931. His two sisters Florence and Anne, and his brother Jonas, were all cut off in childhood. Another brother Henry also died as a young man. The family went in 1870 to the United States, where they resided at Benton, Yates County, not far from their other connections. Jane had three younger sisters, of whom Eliza died at the age of

16 years. Rachel married Rowland Williams of Llanrug, but died at Treforest while her children Laura and Phoebe were in their infancy. Mary became the wife of Thomas Jeffreys of Tregare, near Raglan, and having no children of their own, they adopted Laura and Phoebe Williams.

The failing health of Joseph Plaisted (1793-1862) kept the two youngest sons at home until his decease. After that event they still continued in their accustomed way of life, trying to make good out of an unhopeful task. But the signs of the times were towards a period of agricultural depression, which came to pass in the middle " 'seventies." In the year 1869 Selwyn and Joseph Allen decided to realise their possessions: they divided the proceeds and forsook the land, the last of a long family of yeoman farmers. Selwyn went on a visit to his brothers in the United States, hoping that a sea voyage and a change of life would re-invigorate him, for he suffered from a delicate chest. He married a wife, Anna Louisa Isabella Love, whose very name speaks of her affectionate and happy disposition. When Selwyn returned from abroad they made their home for about a year at Abersychan, Mon., but in the winter of 1871 Selwyn died, just over 34 years of age, leaving no children. He was buried with his father and mother at Caerwent. In the same churchyard many of the family are now at rest, and there is scarcely a more historical place in the whole country. Caerwent was the *Venta Silurum* of the Romans, one of their principal outposts against the wild hordes of the west. Parts of its ancient walls are still standing; countless relics of its highly developed civilisation have been excavated; and the Church itself, within the confines of the former city, is believed to have been originally the site of a Roman Temple.

The household at Mathern had been strongly influenced by the Evangelical Revival of the nineteenth century, which affected in a remarkable degree the life and outlook of the youngest son Joseph Allen (1840-1903). Those who knew him in later years remember his devotion to sermons and religious topics; the long walks to Church accompanied by his young family; and his fondness for serious literature. In his younger days he decided to see New Zealand, which

then came into the limelight with the discovery of gold in the province of Otago. He was attracted by stories of quick fortunes made in the diggings and the hope of a similar reward. Joseph embarked as a second-class passenger on the ship *Challenger* sailing from London, 14th April, 1869, which after an uneventful voyage arrived at Dunedin 20th July following. He had not the robust qualities of a pioneer; he never possessed the true spirit of adventure. His constitution was delicate, he was not a good sailor, and he was keenly sensitive to sordid surroundings. Off the coast of Tasmania his thoughts were back at Broadwell with "dear Jenny Ambrey, Friend Neemes, and Friend Bull," and he remarked in his diary:

"I shall always live and look back to England as my home, and those who are there as bound to me by the insuperable ties of love and friendship."

Joseph lingered some days around Dunedin, then spent two months prospecting in the gold-mining area. He was living on an out-station at Waitahuna at the close of September. By Christmas Day he was back at Dunedin, his mind already made up to return to England, for against that day he wrote:

"How different from last year. The weather warm and balmy, and so unlike the Christmas weather I have been accustomed to see. Enjoyed myself a little at a picnic party, but the fun was not much. Have thought a great deal about home and friends. How I long to see their kindly look again. It seems not Christmas to me in any way. I cannot associate myself with Christmas in the middle of the summer. But 'tis so. Perhaps at home they think it cold enough. I only wish I was there to see and to enjoy myself with them. In twelve months more, if I live, I may be there again. God only knows."

Diary of a Voyage to New Zealand.

At heart he loved home life, the companionship of friends, and the amenities of a settled country. On 1st April, 1870, he embarked on the ship *City of Dunedin* at Port Chalmers, experienced rough weather to within a hundred miles of Cape Horn including one terrific gale, and with a leaky ship short of water and stores landed about the end of

June, 1870, thankful to be back in England. Six months later, on 1st January, 1871, Joseph Allen married Jane White Ambrey, scarcely 20 years of age, eldest daughter of Thomas and Mary Ambrey, of High Meadow, near Coleford, Glos. The wedding was at Cinderford Church. It was the permanent renewal of a childhood friendship which first arose through the visits of the young people at Crick Manor to their cousins of the Parry family at Newland.

Their early married life was a wandering pilgrimage, but they finally settled in the parish of Christchurch, about a mile from Newport, Mon., where all their children were born except Joseph Selwyn, who first saw the light of day at Runston, near Chepstow. Their longest home was at Eveswell Park, in the portion of Christchurch known as Maindee, now swallowed up in an urban district. The fields and quiet lanes which then separated the country from the town have long been developed for building. The hedgerows where wild flowers were gathered in abundance have given place to dreary streets, whose principal decorations are municipal lamp-posts and battered dustbins dumped irregularly on the suburban kerbstone. And just as the scene has changed so the family has dispersed to the four winds. Joseph Selwyn (*b.* 1872), who married Sheila Mary, daughter of James and Mary Quinn of Magheraveely, co. Fermanagh, served first the British administration, then the Irish Free State, as Deputy Accountant General of the Government Postal Services and Telegraphs at Dublin. Arthur Henry (*b.* 1876) combines a number of interests, but principally is Vicar of Medmenham, in the Diocese of Oxford. His wife, Ethel Helen, was the second daughter of the late Henry J. Coles, J.P., of Grosvenor House, Derby. William Edward (*b.* 1878), married fairly early in life to Ethel, daughter of Captain Pugsley, Harbour Master of Newport, was at one time a promising lithographic artist in Bristol, but cut down by illness in the flower of youth he has joined the great majority, leaving two children Hilda and William. He was buried (11th April, 1916) at Greenbank Cemetery, near Stapleton Road, Bristol. Hilda Maud (*b.* 1890) has lost her identity in the name of Mrs. Thomas David, and now tempts fortune as a chemist and

druggist. Joseph Allen was laid to rest (1903) at Caerwent, in the familiar surroundings where he had spent his young days: and to the same place was borne more than thirty years later (1936), on a bright sunny morning in October, his "dear Jenny Ambrey," who through all the changing scenes of life had been his devoted companion and noblest encouragement.

At this point we come to the more personal reflections of our own day which, however interesting they might be to us as reminiscences, are out of place in a work which professes to deal principally with the past.

PLAISTED OF CALDICOT

We left Richard II of Mathern (1779-1843) thinking of the lot which had fallen to him through the last will of his father Richard I. He was then living on the land between Caerwent and Caldicot, which was the birthplace of his first family: Edmund (*b.* 1804), Selwyn, Thomas, Ann, Jane, and Rachel. He afterwards married Ann Lewis of Goytre, a small village near Abergavenny, by whom he had other children: Henry, Ruth, Millicent, and Mary, all born before November, 1824, and a later son, William. Not much is remembered about Richard II beyond that he died 1843 at Goytre, where he had kept a small farm. As they came to years of maturity the family wandered farther afield, but certain of his descendants are still living in Monmouthshire. One of his daughters, Jane, married Meshach Cooke, whose son Reuben took to wife a daughter of Daniel Plaisted of Caerwent, while the younger Benjamin married Hannah Witchell of Blaenavon. Our researches have not set in complete order all the posterity of Richard II still surviving, but a genealogical table elsewhere gives the beginnings of that complicated task, which time and patience might elaborate into an exact statement of the succeeding generations.

The eldest son of this branch, Edmund (*b.* 1804), lived most of his working life at Rock House, Caldicot, where he reared a small family, all of whom brought him credit. One daughter Mary (*b.* 1833) was married at St. Pierre to William Robinson; the eldest son Thomas (*b.* 1836) took to wife Charlotte White

of Portskewett. Another son Edwin (*b.* 1839) married Leah Thomas of Caerwent, and became a dairy farmer. He loved no place sufficiently well to remain there more than a few years, and he died leaving four children to maintain the family reputation : Laura Leah (*b.* 1863), Annie (*b.* 1867), Henry (1870–1917), and Clara (*b.* 1873).

A flavour of romance may be found in the experience of Edwin's younger brother Henry (1852–1918), third son of Edmund, who was an attractive child with pleasing possibilities. The old Vicar of Caldicot had a sister, Miss Williams, who adopted Henry and at the age of four sent him to school. About eight years later he came under the notice of the Rev. Montague H. Noel, curate of Caldicot, who took a fancy to the boy, and became his patron. When Mr. Noel exchanged to a curacy at Wantage (1865–9) Henry went with him, and at Wantage School he acquired the elements of a classical education. His diligence led to placing him at Chard School, Somerset, and from there he proceeded to Keble College, Oxford, where in 1875 he graduated in arts with a distinction in theology. Meanwhile his patron had become the first Vicar of St. Barnabas' Church, Oxford, a benefice in the gift of Keble College. During these years Henry received valuable help also from the Rev. Wm. Gordon Cole, Fellow and Tutor of Trinity College, Oxford, who had interested himself in the young man's success. Henry's first inclination after leaving Oxford was to the scholastic profession, an instinct made keener by current affairs in this country, where national education was the burning topic. While the future was uncertain Henry was offered the post of tutor to a backward young man, and together they went on a voyage to Canada, where further events shaped his subsequent plans. The educational movement in England had stimulated a corresponding impulse in Canada. Giving up his tutorship Henry embarked upon a modest public school, in which he furnished the knowledge while a partner provided the funds. Some years later Henry felt called to offer himself for Church work in Canada. He was ordained by the Bishop of Montreal, then was missionary at Maniwaki on the Indian Reserve, and at Northfield, afterwards becoming Incumbent

of Portage-du-Fort (1892), Rector of Dunham (1899), and of Iberville (1916), all in the Province of Quebec. At Como in the same province he married Elizabeth Bray (*m.* 1885), of St. Gwennap, Cornwall, who accompanied him in his missionary labours, and by whom he had two daughters: Gertrude Mary (1886–1918), and Lilian Dorothy (*b.* 1888), now the wife of the Rev. H. C. Winch, Rector of Frelighsburg, also in the Province of Quebec. After the decease of Henry's first wife (1914) he married Annie Baker of Dunham who survived him.

The youngest son of Edmund, Charles Albert (*b.* 1857), now the sole representative of his generation, found his occupation on the Midland Railway at Gloucester, and later on was transferred to Nottingham. At the close of a useful career among railway signals he retired to become a small farmer at Hose, near Melton Mowbray, Leics. He married Mary Jane Caunt somewhat late in life, and they were blessed with a happy family of two daughters: Laura (*b.* 1905), who is the wife of Ronald Faulks of Colston Bassett, Notts, and Vena Annie (*b.* 1911), whose affections have not yet been appropriated. Although now well over fourscore years of age Charles Albert is full of activity in his busy life; his one sorrow is the recent loss of an admirable wife; he takes an immense interest in the affairs of the parish, being churchwarden of Hose; and he is one of the companions of cheerfulness in that picturesque and rural part of the Midlands known all over the world as the centre of the fox-hunting country.

THE DOMINION OF CANADA

In the wider field there are family connections in Canada of whom we have only indirect knowledge. When we have met visitors from those parts in the service of the State or the Church, they spoke of people they have known of similar name in Canada, living in the Middle or Far West. If this book reaches their notice it may stir curiosity sufficiently to pursue their backward trail to the homeland. We believe they will there find a starting-point in the West of England, and possibly a parentage among these records.

THE PARISH REGISTERS OF MONMOUTHSHIRE

EXTRACTS FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

CAERWENT

Baptism.

- 1831, Nov. 18. John Stephens of Daniel and Mary Plaisted of Crick, Caerwent, Farmer.
1833, Feb. 4. John of Daniel and Mary Plaisted of Crick, Caerwent, Farmer.
1833, Sept. 27. Mary of Edmund and Mary Plaisted of Caerwent, Labourer.
1834, Sept. 1. Jane of Daniel and Mary Plaisted of Crick, Caerwent, Farmer.
1835, Oct. 15. Clara of Daniel and Mary Plaisted of Crick, Caerwent, Farmer.
1863, Feb. 1. Laura Leah of Edwin and Leah Plaisted of Crick, Labourer.

Marriages.

- 1809, June 13. James Selwyn of the Parish of Westbury, Bachelor and Rachel Playsted of this Parish, Spinster, by Licence with consent of parents. Witness : Richard Playsted, Thomas Parry.
1809, June 13. Thomas Parry of the Parish of Newland in the County of Gloster, Bachelor, and Sarah Playsted of this Parish, Spinster, by Licence, with consent of Parents. Witness : Richard Playsted, James Selwyn.

Burial.

- 1837, June 5. Rachel Plaisted of Matherne, aged 88.
1841, Nov. 2. William Plaisted of Crick, Matherne, aged 55.
1841, Dec. 31. Phebe Plaisted of Crick, Matherne, aged 40.
1845, Aug. 26. Eliza Plasted of Crick, Matherne, aged 16.
1847, Mar. 1. Thomas Plaisted of Crick, aged 16.
1850, Jan. 15. Mary Plaisted of Crick, aged 15.
1862, Aug. 21. Joseph Plaisted of Crick, aged 67.
1866. Thomas Plaisted of Chepstow, aged 81.
1867, Feb. 11. Clara Plaisted of Wollaston, aged 31.

- 1871, Dec. 14. Selwyn Plaisted of Abersychan, aged 32.
 1874, Dec. 17. William Allen Plaisted of Maindee, aged 1.
 1882, June 8. Daniel Plaisted of Woolaston, aged 91.
 1903, July 9. Joseph Allen Plaisted, of Newport, aged 63.
 1906, July 10. John Plaisted, of Bristol, aged 73.

LLANVACHES

The Registers have been examined from 1812 to 1850.

Baptism.

- 1825, April 16. Jane, d. of Joseph and Phoebe Plasted of Talgarth, farmer.
 1827, Oct. 1. Mary, d. of Joseph and Phoebe Plasted of Talgarth, farmer.
 1829, Feb. 11. Eliza, d. of Joseph and Phoebe Plasted of Talgarth, farmer.

MATHERN

Baptism.

- 1833, April 7. William the son of Joseph & Phoebe Plaisted of Crick.
 1834, April 30. Henry son of Joseph & Phoebe Plaisted of Crick.
 1836, April 10. Cornelius son of Joseph & Phoebe Plaisted of Crick.
 1837, Aug. 6. Rachel, daughter of Joseph & Phoebe Plaisted of Crick.
 1839, Feb. 10. Selwyn, son of Joseph & Phoebe Plaisted of Mathern.
 1840, June 7. Joseph Allen son of Joseph & Phoebe Plaisted of Mathern.

No Burials or Marriages.

ABSTRACT OF WILL—MONMOUTHSHIRE

*Abstract of Will of Richard Playsted of Caerwent, Co. Monmouth,
Dated 2nd October, 1809*

In the name of God Amen. I Richard Playsted of the parish of Carewent in the Co. of Monmouth, do make and ordain this to be my last will and Testament &c. Gives soul unto the hands of Almighty God that gave it me at the separation from my mortal body. Body to be buried in a decent and Cristian form of Burial at the discretion of my Executors.

Gives and bequeaths to eldest son Jno. Playsted his copyhold Estate situate in the parish of Westbury on Sevan in the County of Gloucester, the said John Playsted to pay the following Legacies out of the aforesaid Estate, viz :—to pay to Mrs. Twigg widow of the late James Twigg of Westbury yeoman the sum of fforty pounds due on a note of hand from me to them, and likewise the beforesd John Plaisted to pay unto my five daughters, Sarah Plaisted, Martha Plaisted, Rachael Plaisted, Jane Plaisted, Phebey Plaisted out of the aforesaid Estate &c. the sum of £40 each. In case one or more of them shall die before the aforesaid Legacies should become due and payable leaving no issue they are to be equally divided amongst the survivor or survivors of the whole of my children, and likewise my will is that my son John Plaisted shall pay to my aforesaid children a further sum of £40, in addition to the above sum of £40 before-mentioned, at the expiration of 6 months after the death of my beloved wife and my Dear Sister Mary Sellwin.

Also my will *yearly* is that from and after the expiration of two years after my decease to pay unto my beloved wife the sum of £5 yearly as long as she shall live, and likewise a further sum of £5 unto my sister Mary Sellwyn yearly during the term of her natural life out of the aforesaid Estate.

Gives unto son Richard Playsted "the whole of the property he have received and had of me being to the amount of £360," he the said Richard Playsted to pay unto my five daughters Sarah Playsted or Parry, Martha Playsted, Rachael Plaisted or Sellwyn, Jane Playsted, Pheby Playsted or Miles, my Daughter, the sum of £10 out of the sum of £360, and in case of non-compliance of this my last will and testament my executors to recover by suit at Law or Equity the sum of £90 of my son Richard Plaisted,

and divide as herebefore specified amongst the five daughters at the expiration of three years after my decease.

Gives to son Thomas Playsted the whole of the property he have had of me being to the amount of £220, being the amount of money he receives of me.

Gives unto beloved wife my sons Samuel Playsted Daniel Playsted all his household goods and Chattels over and above paying the legacies hereinafter specified so long as that they agree to live together, or in any case my beloved wife and my sons mentioned should agree to separate and part, my two sons being joint partakers, to pay unto my beloved wife the sum of £15 a year so long as she shall live ; and further my Will is that my beloved wife and her two sons Samuel and Daniel in case they should agree to live together to pay to my son William Plaisted the sum of 2s. per week at the expiration of 6 months after my decease during the natural life of my beloved wife, and after her decease the sum of 2s. a week in addition to the other 2s. a week, so long as he shall live, to be paid out of my Invested property to my two sons samuel and Daniel Plaisted.

Also my Will is that within 6 months after my decease my stock and farming utensils Chattels &c., which is meant to be *yearly diverted* (?) to my wife and two sons Samuel and Daniel Plaisted shall be legally and properly valued and the fourth part thereof to be paid to my youngest son Joseph Plaisted when he attains the age of 21 years by Samuel and Daniel Plaisted, he my son Joseph after he receives his property to pay in part towards the maintenance of his Mother, and in case my sons Joseph or Daniel should die before either of them should become of age their part or parts shall be divided in two parts, the one to be the property of Samuel and Daniel, the other part equally divided amongst the whole of the survivors of my children, and further my will is that my beloved wife Samuel Daniel and Joseph shall pay by my Executors the whole of my debts and funeral expenses out of the Invested property specified and bequeathed to them.

Gives to Daughter Martha the sum of £100 due on a note of hand from my Brother John Plaisted to my Daughter Martha Plaisted.

Gives to Daughter Rachael, the wife of James Sellwin, the sum of £100 due on a Note of hand from my Brother John Playsted to Rachael my Daughter as specified.

Gives to Daughter Jane Plaisted the sum of £100 now due on a note of hand from my Brother John Plaisted of Jane Plaisted my Daughter before specified.

Also gives to my beloved wife Samuel Plaisted Daniel Plaisted Joseph Plaisted £100 due on a note of hand from my Brother John Plaisted to me.

Also gives to five daughters Sarah Plaisted or Parry, Martha Plaisted, Rachael Plaisted or Sellwyn, Jane Plaisted, and Pheby

Plaisted the sum of £25 due on a note of hand from Jno. Sellwin to me.

Also gives the sum of 10s. to the poor inhabitants of the Tything of Adsett the sum of 5s. and the other sum of 5s. to the Tything of Nable in the parish of Newnham to be divided at the discretion of the Clerks of Westbury and Newnham in Bread to poor people not being on the regular poors book to be paid by my beloved wife and sons.

Also constitutes and appoints my Brother John Playsted also my son John Playsted also Thos. Down Gent. my joint Executors of this my last will and testament whose expenses are to be defrayed out of my personal property devised to my beloved wife and three sons Samuel Daniel and Joseph Plaisted.

(Signed) RICHARD PLAYSTED (L.S.).

Witnesses : JOHN PLAYSTED, RACHAEL SELWYN, W. PRASSING.

Proved at London 12th October, 1810.

(Will at Somerset House.)



JANE WHITE AMBREY (1851-1936)

*Eldest daughter of Thomas and Mary Ambrey, of Coleford, Glos:
wife of Joseph Allen Plaisted of Mathern and Newport, Mon.*

(See pp. 121-2)

PLAISTED OF SOMERSET

PLAISTED OF SOMERSET

THE family tradition in Somerset has no clear or continuous history, yet it is significant that the name has survived principally in the Forest of Mendip. This was the name given to an extensive range around Cheddar, although it did not signify that in former days the country was densely wooded. The term "forest" included a wild unenclosed area, with both moorland and woodland, which was vested in the Crown and was administered under the Forest Laws. There were five such forests mainly in Somerset, the better known being Exmoor and Mendip, which were under the control of an Officer of the Crown. William de Placetis (p. 19) was hereditary Master Forester for the County of Somerset. He was succeeded by Richard de Placetis, who lived at Newton and died without issue; the office afterwards passed through the female line to Sabine Peeche, one of the more distant connections.

On the decease of Richard the family estate was divided between the co-heirs, when the property in Somerset went to a kinsman, William Pleysted, with whose posterity the lands remained for a considerable period. About the middle of the fourteenth century his successor William de Pleistede conveyed certain freeholds to the Abbot of Glastonbury, one of the parcels of land at Stanton being part of the Lordship of Newton. This transaction represents a connecting link between the two forms of the family name, de Placetis and de Pleistede, but the development of the succession and the later propagations in Somerset remain at present an unexplored field. While the descendants in parts of Somerset might establish a claim to be of the line of William de Placetis, others owe their parentage to those who migrated from North Wilts by the Fosse Way, which, passing near Castle Combe, proceeded in a south-westerly

direction through the City of Bath and across the Mendip Hills to Exeter via Wells. The principal family connections in Somerset have been found along this route, but the greater number of them have been associated with the Forest of Mendip.

About the close of the sixteenth century the tide of commercial farming tempted George Plaister (1582-1627) to establish himself at Ashwick near Bath, where his descendants remained for some generations. His son James died in 1668, leaving children of whom no later trace has been discovered. One is contemporary in years and identical in name with Simon who was a tanner at Wells, but there had been a branch of the Plaister family in Wells since 1550. Thirty years afterwards another Simon the tanner of Wells married (1719) Anne Shadwell of St. Cuthbert's Parish. The trail of that branch gradually faded away until just a trace here and there survived which we are unable to fit into a connected story.

The more affluent branch derived its descent from John of Chewton (1590-1650), who in 13 Jas. I (1616) was presiding member of the Mendip Mineral Court at Chewton. His three sons were Charles, John II, and Richard I, all of whom are named on the Subsidy Rolls of 1661. The rise to fortune may be traced to Richard II, a son of John II, who about 1665 was appointed Lead Reeve for the Mendip Mines.

“Richard Plaister was hired by one John Beach to execute the said office (of lead reeve) and had 10s. 0d. for his pains and a promise to give a day's work with his plough, though the deponent would have been willing to have executed the said office gratis and would have gladly continued in the said office for the profit of the same.”

Wilt. County Hist., Vol. II, pp. 376-7.

The office was of small emolument, but it encouraged private enterprise. It was common for the reeve to use his lord's money at substantial interest for financing thriftless miners who were never unwilling to borrow. In one instance “the land reeve . . . did buy great quantities of lead ore and melt the same into lead.” A valuable account of the Chewton Minery has been written by J. McMurtie. The

proceedings of a suit in Chancery at which Richard Plaister II gave evidence contains instructive information about the mining industry at Chewton Mendip and the practices of customary tenants. (*Dep. Hil.* 19 Eliz. No. 3 Som.)

Since the days of the ancient Britons lead has been mined in the district around Mendip. In the time of Edward IV, certain "laws and orders" of the Mendip Miners were drawn up, which regulated the practice of the mines for some centuries. When Richard Plaister II flourished no fresh material had been obtained from the rocks for some years, but lead was procured in substantial quantities from the slags and slimes left by the old workings. During the years he was in office the output of lead fluctuated up to 880 tons in 1669, then in the next five years fell off to 250 tons.

We will turn for a moment to the father of this enterprising land reeve. In the year 1678 John Playster II of Widecombe in the parish of Chewton died leaving his modest estate among the family. That time marks the rise of his branch from obscurity to the level whence his successors proceeded to affluence. When framing his will John wished to leave no doubt about his orthodoxy, so to be precise he affirmed his belief in the "three *distant* Persons of the Trinity," unconsciously betraying the habit of his Sunday observance as well as the nebulous state of his religious instruction. His son Richard II, to whom we have referred, and who departed early in life, had already laid the foundation of a respectable fortune, administration of which was granted to the widow Ann. The inventory has interesting references to "chattell leases," held in one instance by one life, and in another "held by two ancient lives." He was succeeded by Richard III, who acquired the Manor of Butcombe in 1735 from Francis Mann, of Kidlington, near Oxford. Land was then the safe investment of increasing value, the possession of which gave its owner good standing in the county. The village of Butcombe is about three miles from Chew Stoke and from Wrington, where until the early nineteenth century the family remained.

Richard III died in 1756 and was buried in Butcombe Church. There at the east end of the Chapel is his monument in white marble, which also commemorates Elizabeth

his wife, who outlived him by ten years, three of his daughters, and his eldest son John III. Of his other daughters, Elizabeth became the wife of John Camm, and Mary married Dr. Woodward. A short time before his last illness John III of Wrington (1724-60) disposed of the Manor of Butcombe to John Curtis, Esq. He left a young widow Mary who afterwards became the wife of the Rev. Thomas Phelps, but she died in early life. Their son John IV also inherited the freehold estates of an uncle Richard IV of Wick and Abson, Glos, who had died childless. To this last representative of a flourishing line a neat mural tablet appears in the porch of Wrington Church with the following inscription :

“ Mary Ann Plaister, wife of John Plaister of this parish, Esquire, and daughter of George Tuscon of the City of Wells, Esquire, died on 28 Aug. 1818, aged 66.

“ Mary Phelps wife of the Revd. Thos. Phelps and Mother of the above named John Plaister (Her son by her former husband) died on 18 Sept. 1770, aged 38.

“ Elizabeth Plaister the second wife of the above John Plaister died on 16 Aug. 1828, aged 51.

“ John Plaister died 28 March, 1840, aged 84.”

A brass tablet immediately below this memorial states :

“ The above named John Plaister left in the hands of the Rector of Wrington £200, the interest to be given in suitable Clothing to the aged and necessitous on St. Thomas' Day yearly.

In the uncertain period of the Commonwealth we have no definite clue to the origin of William Plaister (*d.* 1681) of Axbridge, but he seems to have been of the Wrington stock. He left no family other than a daughter Dinah. William was a conscientious individual besides being something of a nut. He was careful to leave to his wife “ all household goods that were her own before I married her,” with a fair share of his own estate. He bequeathed to his brother David “ two doublets and other clothing, including two periwigges.” His dealings suggest he was connected with Chewton Mendip, but he had no male succession. The surviving descendants of the Wrington family originated from Thomas Plaister (Plaicett) of Churchill (1660-1742), who married Hannah Batt. He may have been connected with

Richard II of Butcombe, or possibly was a grandson of George of Askweeke. They were comfortable yeomen whose posterity gravitated to Leigh, Stoke St. Michael, and Banwell : where their connections can be traced until well into the nineteenth century. These places are all clustered in an impressive group : all have beautiful views of the distant hills : but none excels for natural loveliness the village of Churchill. That neighbourhood possesses the most interesting group of churches in the whole country, on which we would delight to dwell. They are the eloquent witnesses to the silent passage of time, the store-houses of historical memories, and the spiritual homes of past generations of the family. The story of their lives is written to an extent in their wills now reproduced in summary, where the testator often reveals a careful disposition or a generous nature, and sometimes rejoices to dwell upon a family grudge.

The Plaister descendants of the City of Bristol, most of whom appear as merchants, were the off-shoot of the Westbury family. In the year 1623 Anthony Plaisted bade farewell to the shipyards and the sheep folds of Westbury, and was indentured to Henry Bullock of Bristol :

1623. *May 15.*

"Anthony son of John Plaister, shipwright, of Westbury, Glos., to Henry Bullock, cooper, and Mary his wife."

Report of Bristol Apprentices.

The oft-told tale of the apprentice marrying his master's daughter and inheriting the business seems repeated in the experience of Anthony : for when he had attained his majority he returned to Westbury to introduce the wife to his people at home, the occasion being also marked by the baptism of their first child Roger at Westbury Church. The registers beyond that are silent on his later family affairs, which are subsequently recorded elsewhere. For more than two hundred years the descendants of Anthony continued with some prominence in the city life of Bristol, where at least one blossomed out as a merchant adventurer. This was George Playster of Bristol, who before proceeding overseas in 1700 solemnly delivered his last will and testament in the not unlikely event that he might never return :

"I, George Playster of the City of Bristol, cooper, being in perfect health and of sound mind and memory, praised be to God, and being now bound on a voyage beyond the Seas, doo make and publish this my last will and testament as follows :

"Firstly and principally I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God my Creator hoping and assuredly trusting to have forgiveness of all my sins and to obtain everlasting life through the meritts and mediation of my most blessed Saviour Jesus Christ."

The pious phraseology of the second paragraph should not be regarded as the prophetic anticipation of an early decease. It was the customary language of a period when a strong Puritan spirit prevailed and the making of a will was regarded as a religious duty. With that introduction George proceeded to dispose of his goods, then set forth on a voyage which proved his last adventure. Two years later the executors presumed his decease, for the ship never returned, and probate was granted to a brother John for the estate to be distributed. This brother John was a wine cooper of Bristol, who soon afterwards (17th September, 1704) was left an annuity of £25 for seven years, by the will of Charles Roynon of Bristol, mercer, going to Nevis (*P.C.C. Will* : 297 : *Barrett*). The family continued there for generations in the same line of business. In 1784 we find another John Plaister, wine cooper, numbered among the citizens of Bristol.

That city has well been called "the birthplace of America," because so many roots of trans-Atlantic history are grounded there. As an example the *Mayflower* enterprise was financed by Thomas Weston, one of its citizens. What the merchants of Bristol sought was not only trade with the New World, but a secret path to the riches of the orient by some North-West Passage. The expectation which induced John Cabot to set out from Bristol in the spring of 1497 on a voyage that discovered North America, was one that presented to the fishermen, merchants, and adventurers of succeeding centuries a tempting prospect on which to ponder. It opened to the citizens of Bristol in particular the vision of fresh fields to occupy, free from competitive collision with the Portuguese or Spaniards, where commerce beckoned

them onwards. There were hazards to be encountered as a matter of course, which George Playster among others fearlessly contemplated: but there was the hope of a rich reward. The City of Bristol has an affectionate remembrance for its long line of merchant pioneers, who have no lasting memorial, but whose achievements have gathered eternal renown.

In the registers of Bristol Cathedral and St. Mary Redcliffe Church will be found occasional family baptisms and marriages, yet only sufficient to indicate that the great majority have been recorded elsewhere. The field of distribution in the county was never extensive. The spelling of the name as Plaister indicates in general a Somerset descent, and in our day it is fairly common, not only in Bristol and North Somerset, but in more distant parts where scattered migrations have propagated that form of the family name.

TRANSCRIPTS FROM PARISH REGISTERS

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESE

Marriage Bonds.

- 1632, Sept. 11. Simon Playter of Wells, tanner, and Jane Collins of same, 28.
- 1690, Sept. 3. Thomas Plaicett of Churchill and Hannah Batt of same.
- 1702, May 16. William Plaister of Stoke Lane and Dorothy James of Binegar, widow, at Chewton Mendip, Stoke Lane, or Stratton.
- 1706, Mar. 14. Francis Plaister of Stoke Lane, baker, and Jane Masters of Doultling, aged 23.
- 1716, Sept. 12. Richard Plaister of Chew Stoke, gent., and Elizabeth Cobb of Yatton, at C.S., or Chew Magna, or Stratton.
- 1719, Mar. 28. Simon Plaister of Wells, tanner, and Anne Shadwell of St. Cuthbert's, Wells.
- 1727, June 3. John Plaister of Wincombe yeoman, and Martha Hughes of same, 25, at Wincombe or Wookey.

WEDMORE

1737. Thomas Plaster married Ann Tucker of Wells.

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL

- 1681, July 27. Edward Plaisted married Patience Robins.
- 1719, Nov. 4. Josias Priest married Elizabeth Plaister.
- 1753, Nov. 26. John Plaister of Wrington married Mary Lukins.

ABSTRACTS OF WILLS—SOMERSETSHIRE, 1576-1838

*Abstract of Will of John Playster of Chelcott in the Parish of Wells,
Husbandman, Dated 6th January, 1576*

Of Parish of Chelcott, in parish of St. Cuthbert's in Wells.
Body to be buried at St. Cuthbert's.

Gives to Isabell Teeke four sheep : to Mary Teeke four sheep :

To John Young two sheep and the money he owes me :

To my sister Alyce 6s. 8d. ;

To Alice my daughter £12 and his grandfather's crock, a
platter and pottinger.

To Katherin my daughter £12, great crocks, &c.

To Elizabeth my daughter £12 and the sealed wayghte.

If either of my three daughters die before they are of
age or married, then share to go to survivors.

To Henry Younge a mare and colt.

Residue of goods to Alyce my wife, whom he makes executrix.

Overseers : Walter Hoomes, Robert Casebrook.

Overseers are witnesses.

John Wensley owes me for 11 shafts of cole @ 18d. the shafte
16s. 6d.

Jone Wylmott oweth 2 4s. 2d.

Thomas Wilmott for one load of ferne 2s. 4d.

Wm. Joye oweth 11s. 8d.

Proved 20 March 1576 by Alice Plaister, relict.

Inventory sum £81 12s. 8d.

(*Bishop's Court, Wells, Book 18, f. 52,
at Exeter Probate Registry.*)

*Abstract of Will of George Playster of Ashweeke, Co. Somerset,
Dated 11th January, 1627*

George Playster of Ashweeke in the County of Somerset,
Sick of body but of good and perfect memory.

Body to be buried in churchyard of Ashweeke. Gives to the
Church of Ashweeke 5s. Gives to the poor of Ashweek 5s.
Gives to wife Joane Playster the tenement wherein I now dwell,
with all lands meadows &c., and after her death to my son
Thomas Playster, and after him to my son James Playster.

Gives unto son George Playster all my lands in Henton
blewitt, also £40 provided always that if it shall happen that the

aforesaid George Playster do die without issue that the land aforesaid in Henton shall remain to Thomas Playster, and if it shall happen that Thomas Playster shall die without issue then it shall remain to James Playster.

Gives unto son Thomas £40 : unto Daughters Mary Playster, Sara, Joane, Ruth, and Elizabeth £40. If any die before marriage or come to the age of 21 then portion or portions to be equally divided amongst the rest.

Gives unto son James Playster the sum of £30. Gives unto son Symon £30. All the rest of goods &c. gives to his wife Joane Playster whom he makes sole executrix, provided always that all debts and funeral rights are discharged.

Makes Brother John Playster and John Spiring Overseers.

John Playster testio and Robert Rive John Gant testio Elizabeth Sellway.

Probate made in London 5 June 1628 to Joane Playster Relict.
(*Somerset House : Barrington 55.*)

Abstract of Will of James Plaister, of Ashweeke, in the County of Somerset, Dated 16th September, 1668

The last will and testament of James Plaister who died the 16 day of September 1668 in Ashweeke. I give to John and William Plaister the sum of £3.

I give to my daughter Joane all household goods except the great kettle.

I give to James Plaister a great kettle and my four working horses and all my stock, to be divided between my children—Thomas Plaister and Symon Plaister as my Overseers shall think fit.

My son James Plaister to be Executor. Which words, or to the like effect were uttered by James Plaister on 15th September, 1668.

Witness : THOMAS PLAISTER.

Mark of Simon Plaister.

Sum of Inventory £43 7 4d.

(*Somerset Wills at Exeter Probate Registry.*)

Abstract of Will of Charles Plaister of Chewton, County of Somerset, Dated 30th September, 1676

Chewton : Test : of Charles Plaister.

In Name of God Amen : I Charles Plaister of Chewton in the County of Somerset, yeoman, being sick in body &c., make my last will and testament in manner and form following : 30 Sept. 1676.

Soul to Almighty God and body to be decently buried in the churchyard of Chewton by executor.

Gives to Mary Colier my daughter in law £5 and all household stuff, pewter, brass, linning, wolling &c.

Gives to John Burge a young ——.

Gives to Thomas Burge £5.

Gives to Charles Hoskins (or Haskins) £5 which I have against John Elsonne of Litton.

Gives other goods to Samuel Burge of Chewton, my nephew, whom he makes sole executor.

Charles Plaister his mark.

Witnesses : *Margt. Hart* X.

(?) MRS. BURGE and

ELIZ. SLATON.

Proved 21st October, 1676 by executor.

Value of Inventory £128.

(Somerset Wills at Exeter Probate Registry.)

Abstract of Will of John Playster of Widcombe, in Parish of Chewton Mendip, County of Somerset, Dated 7th August, 1676

In Name of God Amen : I John Playster of Widcombe in parish of Chewton Mendip, County Somerset, yeoman, weak of body but of good and perfect memory &c. Soul to God : Expresses his belief in the ' three distant Persons ' of the Trinity, but one Living God.

Body to be buried in seemly manner.

To poor of Chewton 20s. To parish church of Chewton 1s.

Gives to Mary his well beloved wife one cow, besides £10 yearly to be paid her by executor out of my copyhold estate, or the use of £3 yearly &c.

Wills that son John shall have his bond for land in Kingston Somerset, and all corn and hay on it, and household goods, he to pay £? to Thomas Neale's two youngest children.

Mentions land of three acres in Dundry, a place commonly called by name of Oker on the land coming from the late Sir Francis.

His will is that son John shall suffer my son Richard, whom I intend to make executor to [*Note : the next passage is illegible.*].

Mentions other land of which John's brother Richard was joint purchaser " when I bought it of the King's Majesty's Officers," being a part of his land in the manor of Widcomb in the parish of Chewton Mendip. His will is that son John shall come into Court and make surrender to Richard concerning this land.

Gives to grandchild, daughter of Thomas Neale £10 when 21.

Rest of goods to son Richard, whom he makes full and sole executor. Appoints Brother Richard Plaister and Brother in

law Richard C both of Chewton to be Overseers ; and gives them gloves.

Dated 7th August 1676.

(Signed) JOHN PLAYSTER.

Witness : *Richard Plaister X,*
and another.

Proved 22nd February 1678 : Value of Inventory £214 10s. 0d.

(*Somerset Wills at Exeter Probate Registry.*)

Abstract of Will of Honnor Plaister of Weeke, in Parish of St. Cuthbert, Wells, Dated 26th October, 1680

Honor Plaister of Weeke in the parish of St. Cuthbert, Wells, widow. Dated 26th October, 1680.

Gives to sister Florence Govie, widow, £4 of the money George Dampire owes her.

Gives to my kinswoman Honnor Sweet 20s.

Gives to Mary Hicks my daughter, her wearing apparel.

Gives to Thomas Hicks and John Hicks £5 each.

The residue to my two grandchildren Mary Hicks and Honour Hicks.

Appoints my friends Hugh Mead of Wookey Hole, in Wookey, gent., and Nicholas Painter of Wells, linnen-draper, executors in trust for my said grandchildren.

Witnesses : THOMAS BUXTON : JOHN HICKS : WILLIAM FREKE.

Probate Act dated 2 Feb. 1680.

An Inventory of clothing, and several bonds : sum £94 14 0.

By Thos. Willmott ; Richard Wilcox ; John Bagwell ; Peter Downes.

(*Dean's Court Wills, 1680/15, Wells,
at Exeter Probate Registry.*)

Abstract of Will of William Plaister of Axbridge, County of Somerset, Yeoman, Dated 18th March, 1680

In Name of God Amen : I William Plaister of Axbridge in the County of Somerset, yeoman. Sick in body but of pfect memory &c. Body to earth at discretion of executors.

Gives to loving wife Mary all household goods that were her own before I married her, and the wheat and mowe at Donnett in parish of Compton Bishopp, with the beans in the house, and allcorn growing upon the said land at Donnett and all the wood in the backsides at Axbridge, and all the bacon in the house at Axbridge, and my brown ambling mare.

Gives to said wife a bond of £25 from Christopher Hope of Axbridge and one bond of £5 due from Isaac Harkins of Chewton Mendip, yeoman, and one bond of £6 due from Edward Greening

of Axbridge and also one bond of £5 whereof 40s. is paid, due from Andrew Lacy of Christon in the County aforesaid, Clerke.

The interest of all bonds due at time of his decease he gives to Executor. Moreover, gives to said wife £5 in money. Mentions money due to Anne ffrye of £40 : to William ffrye £4. Mentions wife's former husband Roger Tripp of Donnett.

Gives to brother David Plaister two doublets and other clothing, including two periwigges.

Wills that during Edith Holbrooke's life the daughter of Thomas Holbrooke shall be put into the house where he now dwells in some convenient time after my decease by my executor, after my said wife and Dinah Plaister my daughter with the provision that if said daughter Dinah lives to be 21 &c. Makes provision for his daughter to have household goods. If she die before 21, then £5 to brother David and to Christopher Swift his three daughters 20s. apeece, and to William Cornill, son of my sister Edith, 20s., and to Jane, daughter of said Thomas Holbrooke.

All that remains of his personal estate he gives to Dinah Plaister his daughter, whom he makes whole and sole executrix of this his last will and testament. Makes well-beloved friends Thomas Lovell of Axbridge gent., and Thomas Holbrooke, Overseers. Gives them 5s. each to buy gloves. Dated 18 March 1680.

(Sd) WILLIAM PLAISTER.

(Seal : looks like bird or lion rampant, with initials crudely printed in corner W. P.)

In presence of EDWARD FULLER : CHS. HOPKINS : ROGER DUNSTER.

Proved 6th July 1681.

Inventory shows sum of £293 0s. 2d.

The principal items are :

112 Hogs and sheep	£28
6 Steers &c.	£24
Money due on Bills and Bonds	£39
Due from several persons	£29

Abstract of Will of John Playster of Chewton Mendip in the County of Somerset, Dated 1684

1684 : Chewton Mendip : Test : of John Plaister. I John Plaister being sick and weak in body but of pfect memory &c. Body to be buried at discretion of executor.

Gives kinsman John Neal £10.

Gives kinswoman Mary Neale £10.

Gives kinsman Thomas Neal £5.

Gives kinswoman Charity Neal £5.

Rest of goods to brother Richard Plaister, whom he makes full and sole executor.

(Signed) JOHN PLAYSTER.

The mark of An Neale

The mark of Mathu ffrassell.

Proved 9th November 1684.

Value of Inventory £292. 6. 8.

(*Somerset Wills at Exeter Probate Registry.*)

Administration of Richard Plaister of Widcombe, in Parish of Chewton in the County of Somerset, Yeoman, Dated 1694

Administration of Richard Plaister of Widcombe, in the parish of Chewton, yeoman, who deceased 29th August 1694.

Bond of Anna Plaister of Chewton, wid., Richard Webb of Widcombe, in parish of Chewton, yeoman, and Henry Sherborne of same, yeoman, in £20. 6 October 7 William III. Condition that abovebound Anne Plaister relict and administratrix of goods of Richard Plaister, late of Chewton, shall make an inventory &c.

Inventory :

Wearing apparrell and money £20.

Farm stock and household goods.

Chattell lease in parish of Dundry £10 10s.

A Chattell lease called the eight acres in Kingston Seymour held by one life £21.

Another Chattell lease in Kingston Seymour called the twelve acres held by two ancient lives £20.

Sum £444. 11. 10.

By Henry Fisher and Richard Webb.

Exhibited 16th October 1695 by Anne Plaister relict and Administratrix.

(*Blshop's Court Admin., 1695/32, Exeter Probate Registry.*)

Abstract of Will of George Playster of Bristol, Cooper, Dated 4th December, 1700

I, George Playster of the City of Bristol, cooper, being in perfect health and of sound mind and memory, praised be to God, and being now bound on a voyage beyond the Seas, doo make and publish this my last will and testament as follows :

As touching my estate I dispose thereof as follows : Imprimis : I give and bequeath to my brother Simon Plaister ffive pounds in money, and to my brother Thomas Plaister the like sum of ffive pounds and to my sister Mary Stroud the like sum of ffive pounds, to my sister Sarah Browning widow the like sum of ffive pounds, and to my sister Elizabeth Harris the like sum of ffive pounds, to my nephew and godson George Plaister (son of my brother John Plaister) the sum of ten pounds in money.

Item : Rest of estate reall and personal, gives and bequeaths to my brother John Plaister whom he makes sole executor, he to pay legacies, debts and funeral expenses. Revokes former wills.

Dated 4th December 1700.

(Signed) GEORG PLAYSTER.

In presence of WM. BUTLER : RICHARD HASSELL.

Probate granted to John Plaister, executor, 30 Oct. 1702.

(*Will at Somerset House, 166 Herne.*)

Will of John Plaistor of the City of Bristol, Cooper, Dated 22 August, 1719

In the Name of God Amen, &c. The Last Will and testament of John Plaistor of the City of Bristol, Cooper. Leaves to eldest son Simon two guineas in gold. To son John Plaistor twenty pounds in mony and to son George the like sum of twenty pounds in mony to be paid within three months of decease. Gives to said sons John and George all wearing apparrel (except my gowne) to be equally shared. Gives to said son George my silver Taster my silver dram dish and my silver shoe-buckler.

My will is that said son John shall Depart my dwellinghouse within six dayes after my interment, which if he doth refuse to doe or shall commence any Law suit against his sister Elizabeth Plaister or give her any abuse or trouble then my will is that he shall have noe benefit of the Legacies hereby given him ; and in like manner if my said son George shall commence any law suit against my Executrix or give her any abuse or trouble then my will likewise is that my said son George shall have no benefit of legacies given.

All the rest and residue of estate to daughter Elizabeth whom he makes sole and whole executrix.

Dated 22 August 1719.

(Sd) JOHN PLAISTER.

(Seal)—Man's head wearing Georgian headdress.

Memorandum : That the said son George is not of full age, and my will is that his legacy shall be paid when he is 21, and not before unless executrix thinks fit.

In presence of SIMEON WORLOCK ; RICH. HASSELL.

Proved 29 October 1719 at Bristol.

Will of Thomas Plaisted of the City of Bristol, Dated 26 Jan., 1724

In the Name of God Amen : The Last Will and Testament of Thomas Plaistedd of the City of Bristol, Joyner.

All debts, funeral expenses &c. to be first paid ; and rest and residue to loving and beloved wife Elizabeth for life and after-

wards the same to be equally divided amongst my "sister's Children Children."

Makes wife sole executrix.

Dated 26 Jan. 1724.

(Sd) THOS. PLAISTEED.

(Seal)—Stag's head with antlers.

In presence of ROBERT HEARN ; JAMES BRITTEN.

Proved at Bristol 9 January 1728.

Administration of Elizabeth Plaister of Mells in the County of Somerset, Dated 10th December, 1728

I Elizabeth Plaister of Mells in Somerset, a minor of the age of 14 years and upwards, being the daughter of Bridgett Plaister, late of Mells, deceased, hereby nominate my good friends Samuel Gunning of Mells and Mr. John Somers of West Cranmore to be my guardians. 10 December 1728.

Witnesses : WILLIAM HIGGINS and RI. TUCKER.

Bond of Samuel Gunning of Mells, yeoman, and John Somers of West Cranmore, yeoman, 10 Dec. 1728.

(*Bishop's Court Administrations, 1728-85—Letters Tutelary. At Exeter Probate Registry.*)

Will of John Plaister of the City of Bristol, Dated 18 Oct. 1734

In the Name of God Amen, &c. &c. Last will and testament of John Plaister of the City of Bristoll, Hooper. Leaves to his nephew Daniel Plaister (son of my brother Simon Plaister deceased) ten pounds to be paid at the expiration of his present apprenticeship with Master Manaseth Whitehead of Bristol, merchant.

Leaves to each of the children of my sister Elizabeth Priest deceased one shilling in money.

All the rest of his goods, chattels, &c. to his wife Elizabeth Plaister.

Dated 18 October 1734.

(Sd) JOHN PLAISTER (Seal).

In presence of JOHN JENKINS

THOMAS TANNER

WILLIAM CARTER

Proved at Bristol (?) 1734.

Abstract of Will of Thomas Plaister of Churchill in the County of Somerset : Husbandman : Dated 19th November, 1740

Thomas Plaister of Churchill, Co. Somerset, husbandman.

Gives to son Samuel and son William and daughter Hannah Carpenter and son John 10s. each, to be paid to them by my son Thomas Plaister.

Gives to said son Thomas a paddock called Langfords Field in Churchill and a paddock called Portway Paddock in said parish to enjoy it as long as the Revd. Mr. James Tuttle of Axbridge and Mrs. Betty Beacham of Haveat shall live, and everything else I am possessed of.

My son Thomas to be executor.

Dated 19th November 1740.

Witnesses: THOMAS JONES, JOHN LOWLER.

The deceased lived two years very near before his death and died at Wrington.

Proved 29 Nov., 1746 by Thomas Plaister son and executor.

(*Bishop's Court, Wells, 1746-67.*

At Exeter Probate Registry.)

Abstract of Will of Richard Plaister of Broadfield Downs in the Parish of Butcombe, County of Somerset, Gent: Dated 19 Feb. 1755

Richard Plaister of Broadfield Downs in the parish of Butcombe, Somerset, gentleman:

Gives two acres of ground called Cross Lands Paddocks in parish of Butcombe to Elizabeth his wife for life: after her decease to his son John. Gives also to son John £50 in money and a large silver tankard.

Owens three copyhold tenements at Widcombe in the parish of Chewton, Somerset, held by copyhold under H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, and one called The Home Living of 60 acres: one called (?) Purnalls of 23 acres, and one other containing 29 acres, formerly the land of one Athay. (He disposes of these of the Athay family.)

Gives to son Richard the following—

Messuage containing 20 acres in parish of Hempnett, Som.

6 acres of ground in Widcombe, in parish and manor of Chewton, held of the Earl of Waldgrave &c.

Other ground in Hempnett.

Freehold tenement in parish of Kingston Seymour, Somerset.

Leasehold estate in Kingston Seymour held of Earl Paulett.

Leasehold estate in Kingston Seymour held of late Gwyn Vaughan Esq.

His messuage and 8 acres of ground in Wynford Som., late in possession of Daniel Breane.

He charges his freehold land given to Richard with payment of £50 to each of his (Richard's) sisters. Richard is under 21; and testator makes provision in case one or more die before they reach age of 21.

Gives leasehold estate in Yatton, Som., held from the Earl Paulett, to his four daughters—Ann, Sarah, Rachel & Rebecca (all under age), and to each of them £200 in money.

To two daughters, Hester and Mary, £500 apiece in money.

Mentions Elizabeth his wife and John Combe and John Turner, both of Bristol, merchants, to whom he leaves his farm in the parishes of Butcombe, Hempnett, and Blagden, and 10 acres called Broad Close in Hempnett. Makes provision from this for his daughters' portions.

Dated 18 Oct. 1750. (Signed) RICHARD PLAISTER.

In presence of RICHARD WINPENNY, G. TYNDALE, ZACHARY BAYLY.

Codicil No. 1 dated 18 Oct. 1750, revokes legacy of £50 to son John. Mentions his son in law John Cam. 2nd Codicil is dated 19 Feb. 1750.

Will proved in London 13 April 1756.

(Will at Somerset House : 115 Glazier.)

Abstract of Will of John Plaister of Stoke St. Michael otherwise Stoke Lane, County Somerset : Dated 5th February, 1757

John Plaister of Stoake St. Michael otherwise Stoke Lane, County Somerset :

Gives to John Plaister son of Samuel Plaister £20 to be paid when 21.

Gives to his brother William £20 when 21.

Gives to James Gullick son of Henry Gullick £5 when 21.

Gives to Richard Solway, carpenter, now living at Oakhill £10 to be paid five years after decease.

Gives to John Selway £10 : to Thomas Selway £10 : to Joseph Selway £5—all to be paid five years after his death.

I will to James Plaister 1s. only as a bar to his claiming any further legacy.

Rest of goods to kinsman William Plaister and I make him my whole and sole executor.

Dated 5 February 1757.

(Sd) John Plaister his mark.

(A Seal : ? maltese cross.)

In presence of

RICHARD HARDWICK

JOHN BAKER.

JOHN HARDWICK.

Proved 15 August 1759 on oath of William Plaister.

(Somerset Wills at Exeter Probate Registry.)

Abstract of Will of Elizabeth Plaister of Bourton in County of Somerset, Widow : Dated 6th August, 1761

Elizabeth Plaister, widow, of Bourton. Gives to son Richard Plaister £20, six silver table spoons, tea tongs and tea strainer,

and silver pepper box all which were late Mr. Manns: to my daughter Hester £50: to my granddaughter Harriet Camm my silver pint cup marked H.P. To my granddaughter Amelia Camm a silver porringer and salver.

Whereas my late husband Mr. Richard Plaister by will dated 18 Oct. 1750 did give to his and my four daughters, Ann, Sarah, Rachel, and Rebecca £200 each to be paid at day of marriage or at other time as I should think fit, and did thereby also give to his and my two daughters Hester and Mary £500 each to be paid as above and in the meantime they should be entitled to interest at 4 per cent. By said will he also gave to me, John Combe (since dead) and John Turner a farm and lands in parishes of Butcombe, Nimnett, and Blagdon, upon trust to sell and apply for the portions of daughters Hester and Mary, and remainder to other children, and he appointed me, John Combe and John Turner executors, and by a codicil dated 4 Jan. 1752 taking notice that he had then lately purchased in fee certain lands in Blagdon from Samuel Dibbens, he did give same to me, John Combe, and John Turner to sell for the same trusts as the money arising from sale of the lands he purchased of Mr. Man, being the lands before mentioned in Butcombe &c.

By another Codicil dated 19 Feb. 1755 taking notice that the sum of £500 which he had by will given to his daughter Mary had on her marriage with Dr. Woodward been paid him as her portion and declared legacy to Mary to be void. And since decease of my husband and of John Combe the lands at Butcombe, Nemnett and Blagdon have been sold, but the land bought of Samuel Dibbens is undisposed of. And I have paid to my daughter Hester the legacy of £500, and there appearing to be no fund whereout to pay the legacies of £200 to Ann, Sarah, Rachel, Rebecca, and my daughter Rebecca lately dying unmarried intestate, her legacy of £200 was paid to the parties entitled to her effects and my other three daughters, Ann, Sarah, and Rachel being living, their portions of £200 shall be paid and any residue divided between my daughters, said Ann Plaister and Hester Plaister, Elizabeth Camm, Mary Woodward, Sarah Plaister and Rachel Plaister.

Commends care of daughter Ann to my two daughters Sarah and Rachel, and they are to have the management of her money. Residue to daughters Sarah and Rachel, whom she makes executrixes.

Dated 6 August 1761. Witnesses: SARAH ROGERS, ROBT. HALE, RICHARD DE LA BERE.

Executrixes sworn 22 June 1767: No Probate Act.

(Bishop's Court, Wells: At Exeter Probate Registry.)

*Abstract of Will of Thomas Plaister of Churchill, Yeoman : Dated
12th May, 1777*

Thomas Plaister of Churchill, yeoman.

Gives to son James Plaister of the parish of Yatton £200.

Gives to my two granddaughters Mary Plaister and Hannah Plaister, daughters of the said James Plaister, £20 each to be paid to James for their use when they are 21.

Gives to son in law John Light of Congersbury a bond that he gave me in security for £95.

Gives to my two granddaughters Iddy Plaister and Mary Plaister daughters of my son William Plaister £20 each, when they are 21.

My son William Plaister of Churchill to be executor and to have residue.

Dated 12 May 1777.

Witnesses : THOS. BROOKS ; THOS. GREGORY.

Proved 23 May 1778 by William Plaister, executor.

*(Wills of Peculiar of Banwell & Churchill, 1778/No. 6.
At Exeter Probate Registry.)*

*Administration of John Plaister of Wrington, Somerset : Dated
10th June, 1778*

Administration of John Plaister of Wrington.

Bond of John Plaister of Wrington, gentleman, and William Pearce of Wells, gentleman, in £200 : 10 June 1778. Condition that above John Plaister son and only next of kin and administrator of goods of John Plaister, late of Wrington, intestate, left unadministered by Mary Plaister, afterwards Mary Phelps (wife of Thomas Phelps, clerk) his widow and administratrix since deceased, shall administer &c.

(Bishop's Court, Wells, 1778/51 : At Exeter Probate Registry.)

*Abstract of Will of Richard Plaister of Bristol in the County of
Somerset : Dated 20th December, 1794*

Richard Plaister of St. Mary's, Redcliffe, Bristol.

Possessed of freehold estate in Wick and Abson, Glos. ; also one other estate in same parish in his own occupation. He gives and bequeaths both to his good friends William Turner of Belmont in the parish of Wraxall, Som., esquire ; and John Plaister of Wrington, Som.

Also possessed of freehold estate in parish of Kingston Seymour, Som., also leasehold estate in the same parish held by lives. Gives these also to the abovenamed.

Estates to be sold and mortgages discharged &c., and from the proceeds the following legacies to be paid :

Bequests which he makes to Chas. Madox of City of Bristol.

To sister Anne Plaister ten guineas for mourning. To sisters Sarah and Rachel Plaister £50 each.

To sister Elizabeth Cam, wife of Mr. John Cam £50 : to brother in law Mr. John Cam 20 guineas : to Niece Elizth. Cam ten guineas for mourning ; to niece Amelia Cam, Harriet Baker, wife of Samuel Baker of Brockley and Louisa Seymour wife of George Seymour of Backwell £100 each. To George Wm. Seymour of Backwell 20 guineas and to William Turner 20 guineas.

Gives to sister Hester Plaister 20 guineas ; my nephew's wife Mary Ann Plaister of Wrington 20 guineas ; Mr. Thos. Browning of Saltford 10 guineas ; My sister in law Elizabeth Bush who now boards with me £700. To poor of parish of Butcombe 5 guineas.

To sister in law Elizabeth Bush all his rights and titles and interests in the parish of Bitton in the County of Glos., called Hutts : and in Wick St. Lawrence, Co. Som., held under the Corporation of the City of Bristol on lives. This chargeable with the payment of £40 a year to Mrs. Ann Cobb of Woburn, Beds.

Gives above to sister Hester Plaister for natural life, and after her decease to his three sisters Elizth. Cam, Sarah and Rachel Plaister.

All the residue of estate to nephew John Plaister of Wrington, Som. Appoints him sole executor.

Lengthy codicil dated 22 Jan. 1793 dealing chiefly with personal valuables. Leaves beds and furniture to sister in law Elizth. Bush : mentions a ring which he wishes to be given to the Bishop of Cloyne (brother of Dr. Woodward his sister's husband) : also some drawings which were his sister Woodward's. Mentions land 4 acres held by him in Widcombe held of the Earl of Waldegrave for lives : also in manor of Chewton, Som. Gives these to nephew John Plaister of Wrington.

Witnesses : FRANCES VIGOR ; FRANCIS LEWIS ; ROBT. WALKING.

Will proved 20 March 1794.

(Will at Somerset House : Holman 219.)

Abstract of Will of William Platster of Stoke St. Michael otherwise Stoke Lane, County Somerset, Dated 10th April, 1799

In the Name of God Amen : I William Plaister of Stoke St. Michael otherwise Stoke Lane, County Somerset, being in good health, sound mind and perfect memory, make last will and testament as follows : Bequeaths to nephew John Plaister of parish of Leigh, Somerset, £50 to be paid 12 months after decease. To nephew William Plaister 1s. per week when he attains the age

of 50 years. All real estate &c. he bequeaths to son in law Stephen Neal of Batcombe, his heirs &c. Appoints him sole executor and revokes all former wills.

Witness : 10 April, 1799.

JOHN PEARCE
SARAH PEARCE.

(Ad) WM. PLAISTER
(Seal).

Proved by Stephen Neale, 5 July 1799.

(*Somerset Wills at Exeter Probate Registry.*)

*Administration of William Plaister of Churchill, County Somerset :
Dated 30 October, 1810*

Administration of William Plaister : 30 October 1810. Bond of Ann Plaister of Churchill, widow, John Combes of St. James', Bristol, gent., and John Elems of the City of Wells, cordwainer in £400—30 October 1810.

Condition that Ann the widow and administratrix of William Plaister, late of Churchill, shall administer &c.

(*Peculiar of Churchill, 1810/74.*)

(*Admin. at Exeter Probate Registry.*)

Abstract of Will of Rachel Plaister of Flax Bourton in the County of Somerset, Spinster : Dated 19th May, 1810

I Rachel Plaister of Flax Bourton, County Somerset, spinster, sound of mind &c. make last will and testament as follows :

Gives to niece Harriet Baker, wife of Samuel Baker, of Alnwick in parish of B—— in County Somerset, esquire, £2,000.

To Louisa Seymour, wife of George Penrose Seymour of Belmont in parish of Wraxall, Co. Somerset £1,000.

To niece Amelia Cam of (?) Clavoracum in the parish of Yatton, Co. Somerset, daughter of John Cam late of Claverham in County of Somerset, esquire £100.

To Elizabeth Sayle, wife of Rev. Samuel Sayle late of the Royal ffort in parish of Saint Michael, City of Bristol, but now of the parish of Easton-in-Gordano, otherwise Saint George, in the County of Somerset £100.

To grandnephew George Turner Seymour son of said George Penrose Seymour £1,000.

To all children of my said niece Harriet Baker £20 apiece.

To two youngest children of said niece Louisa Seymour £20.

Gives to Rev. John Cobb of Charlbury, Oxon, D.D. £20.

To children, son and daughter, of Elizabeth James, late of City of Bristol, widow, deceased, and to nephew of said John Cobb £100 apiece.

To Elizabeth Prosser wife of Rev. Prosser and unto Ann Camplin of Olveston, Co. Gloucester, spinster, and the daughter of Doctor Camplin of Bristol, deceased, £20.

To Rev. Thos. Camplin of Olveston, D.D., his executors and assigns £20 in trust for the children of his brother Charles Camplin now or late of Bristol, attorney at law.

To Catherine Cave of the City of London, spinster, £100.

To Mrs. Owen of Flax Bourton £10.

To servants Mary Weeks and George Payne if in her service at her decease £200 apiece.

To poor of Flax Bourton £10 : to the poor of Batcombe, Co. Somerset £10 ; and to Martha Turner, Fanny Turner, and Ann Turner, daughters of the late Rev. Wm. Turner £50 apiece.

To Rev. A. Cottrell of the parish of Nailsea, Co. Somerset, £20 for the poor of the parish.

All legacies to be paid by executor within 6 months of her decease.

Also gives to Richard Wooltrop now or late of Blandford, Dorset, gentleman, grandson of Rev. Richard Cobb formerly of Whitchurch, Somerset, deceased all my estate, lands &c. in Wick St. Laurence, Somerset, and which devolved to me on the decease of my sister Hester Plaister &c.

Gives to Mrs. Elizth. Capper daughter of Joseph Naish of Congersbury, Som., gentleman, my gold watch with a plain case, late my sister's Sarah Plaister's.

Gives to said niece Harriet Baker all household goods except wearing apparel.

Gives to grandnephew John Baker son of said Samuel Baker my best silver tankard, and unto my grandnephew said George Turner Seymour a small pair of candlesticks.

Rest of real and personal estate to nephew John Plaistow [*sic*] of Wrington, Som., Esquire, and his heirs.

Nominates said John Plaister [*sic*] whole and sole executor.

Revokes all former wills.

In witness whereof I have set hand and seal 19th May 1810.

RACHEL PLAISTER.

In presence of JOHN RUSH ; Solicitor, Bristol ; MARY PERRY, JANE VOWLES.

Proved at London, 3 October 1811 on oath of John Plaister, nephew, sole executor.

(*Will at Somerset House.*)

Abstract of Will of John Plaister, of Banwell, Schoolmaster : Dated 4th July, 1836

John Plaister of Banwell, schoolmaster.

Gives to two sons William Plaister and John Plaister my two freehold messuages, gardens &c. near to the Brick yard in Banwell, now in occupation of Thomas Gunningham and Job Horler as tenants.

To my daughter Ann Plaister all my new built cottage and

garden now occupied by John Laney as tenant, on White Cross Batch, near Banwell, which I now hold by lease under the Bishop of Bath and Wells.

To my daughter Phebe Plaister, my cottage and garden now occupied by Samuel Hancock as tenant on White Cross Batch which I hold by lease as above.

To my son William all my writing desks and forms.

To my son James my silver watch when he is 21.

Mentions Daughter Sarah, under 21.

To daughter Mary tea spoons marked M.P.—under 21.

To my son William my large bible in two volumes.

To my son John my geographical gazetteer in two volumes.

To my friends James Hewlett and James Say, both of Banwell, £450 in trust for maintenance of my children James, Mary and Sarah; James to be bound as apprentice.

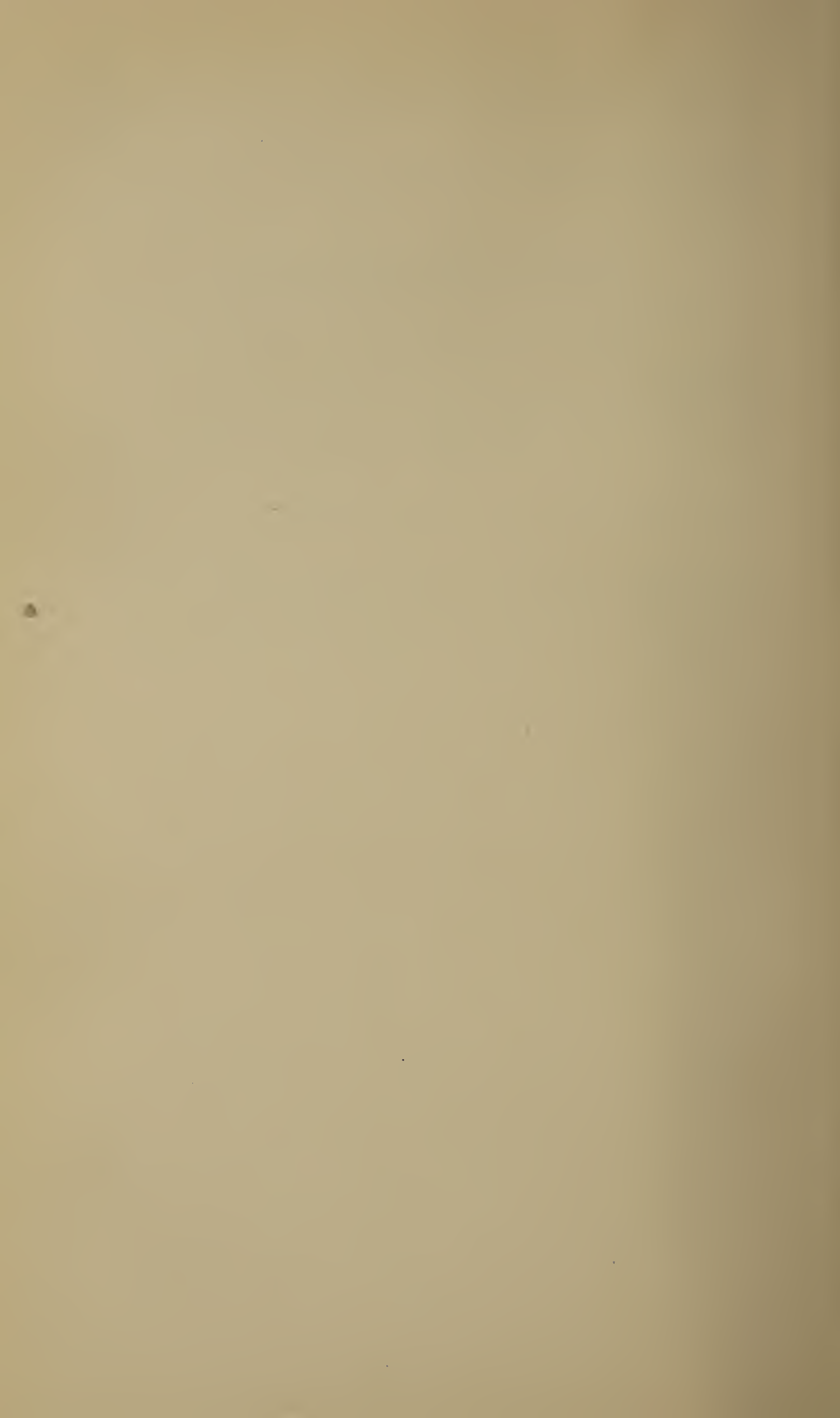
Executors: My son William and my two daughters Ann and Phebe.

Witnesses: BENJAMIN SALISBURY, BENJ. SALISBURY, junr., ROBERT HILLMAN.

Proved 1 January 1838 on oath of Wm. Plaister, Ann Plaister, and Phebe Plaister, spinsters, executors.—Under £800.

(*Bishop's Court, Wells, 1838/10. At Exeter Probate Registry*).

PLAISTED OF NEW ENGLAND



PLAISTED OF NEW ENGLAND

THE claim that trade follows the flag, however picturesque or useful it may be as a commercial slogan, is an entire reversal of the original procession, in which the flag followed trade. The colonial expansion of England was never the expression of land hunger, as it has sometimes been in the history of other nations. It arose from the desire to exclude our trade rivals and to capture their commerce. In its initial stages that spirit took the form of discovery and privateering. Armed vessels, owned and officered by private individuals bearing "letters of marque" from the Government, used that authority to capture the merchant shipping of hostile nations. The policy of piracy gradually settled into the more prosaic business of colonisation. The voyages of Sir Francis Drake and Sir Walter Raleigh, plundering the treasure ships of the King of Spain, and claiming sovereignty for Britain in the New World, awakened the imagination of people, and fired the dormant spirit of adventure. They prepared the way for the Chartered Companies afterwards promoted to utilise the fields of these discoveries, and early in the seventeenth century the tide of emigration began to flow into the Colonies of New England.

Many of these settlers, like the Pilgrim Fathers, who first fled to Holland in 1608, then landed at Cape Cod in 1620, left England to secure freedom for their Puritan convictions. Numbers of people from this country followed them, partly until 1640 to escape religious persecution, but afterwards because they saw in the New World scope for trade or the kind of life which attracted ardent spirits. The Company of Massachusetts Bay obtained its charter in 1629, to be soon followed by New Haven, Maine, and New Hampshire. These states were four of the eight colonies governed by nominees of the Crown. Maryland and Pennsylvania were

under proprietors recognised by the Crown. Rhode Island and Connecticut were Chartered Companies governing themselves.

MAINE AND NEW HAMPSHIRE. SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

The first overseas settler of the family was Roger Plaisted (1624-75), born at Durnford Mill, near Mildenhall and Chilton Foliat, who married Olive Coleman of Preshute, Wilts. His uncles John and Robert had been prominent in the affairs of that district when Sir John Popham of Chilton Foliat, Lord Chief Justice of England, launched an enterprise to develop the northern part of Virginia, which afterwards became New England. We are not now concerned with the romantic story of Sir John Popham. He was a famous lawyer who is reputed to have been an infamous rogue, and he accumulated the largest fortune ever made by a member of the English bar. His colonial exertions were actuated by a desire to increase his almost incredible wealth as much as by the hope of dealing with the distressful conditions of the population.

This expedition to the New World, despatched under the auspices of the Plymouth Virginia Company, for which the money and the men had been got together by Sir John Popham, set sail with two vessels under the command of Captain George Popham on 31st May, and reached its destination on 11th August, 1607. Some few of those adventurers were drawn from around Mildenhall and Chilton Foliat. A landing was made at the site called New Plymouth on the coast of what is now Maine, and there a settlement was created of a hundred people with a fort, store house, and church. The ensuing winter proved so severe and provisions were so scanty that all the people save forty-five were sent back. Within a few months Captain Popham died, and when soon afterwards supply ships brought news of the death of Sir John Popham all the party returned to England from a region which they described as "a cold, barren, mountainous, rocky desert." This hostile opinion was amended a few years later by the explorations of Captain John Smith, published in *A Description of New England* (1616), containing a glowing account of its rivers, islands,

soil, and healthy climate. The book created tremendous interest throughout Europe and particularly in England. It led before long to the revival of the Plymouth Virginia Company, which petitioned the King, 3rd March, 1620, for a renewal of their privileges, desired that their territory be called New England, and suggested the bounds as from Lat. 40° to 48° N. In that same year and under the ægis of the Plymouth Virginia Company, the permanent colonisation of New England began with the settlers of the *Mayflower*.

It may be that from the abortive settlement of 1607 some relative of Roger returned to fire the imagination of the younger generation, or the books of Captain Smith, with the splendid enterprise of the Pilgrim Fathers, may have encouraged Roger to follow in their train. Upon that possibility tradition is silent. All we can say for certain is that about 1649, a year marked by the execution of Charles I and the birth of the Commonwealth, Roger left England accompanied by Olive and their son Roger the younger. The papers of Thomas Mayhew, appointed by the Crown in 1637 to record all persons leaving England "to pass into forraigne parts," exist only in fragments containing no mention of Roger: but the entry may yet be found among the uncatalogued documents of the Record Office. Permits for departure were the recognised order of the day, although many emigrants must have left without that formality. Roger would have gone by road to Portsmouth or Bristol, and there have taken passage by one of the ships as the *Angel Gabriell* or the *James*, then regularly trading to New England. After a voyage lasting some weeks, he landed at Boston, founded in 1630, then the principal port of Maine, and remained there for a while. About 1654 he proceeded to Kittery, to the part anciently called Newichawannock or Quamphegan, now Berwick, where Roger had a grant of land. This he extended in 1660 by purchase of another tract granted in 1652 to John Wincoll, and in 1669 he received a further grant from the town of Kittery. Part of his possessions were in the Province of Maine, and the remainder across the Salmon Falls River in New Hampshire.

Local government in the small and primitive community where Roger settled proved a thorny problem. Its very

feebleness prepared the way for subsequent developments. The inhabitants of Saco, Cape Corpus, Wells, York, and Kittery, numbering seventy-one souls, addressed a petition to Oliver Cromwell in August, 1656, praying to be placed under the Government of Massachusetts, alleging that they were "a people few in number, and those not competent to manage weighty affairs, our weakness occasioning distraction, our paucity, division, our meanness, contempt." One of the petitioners on that occasion was Roger Plaisted, whose activities were largely devoted to the welfare of Maine. He was one of the five Associates chosen in 1661 by the Freemen of Maine. Two years later he was one of the delegates selected to appear before the Massachusetts General Court. He presided as magistrate in the County Court at York in 1664, was a member of the Grand Jury in 1667, and in the same year was the appraiser of an Inventory of Lands. These occasional glimpses come in the midst of a career crowded with the cares of a pioneer existence. They fully entitle Roger to the degree of honourable respect which has always gathered around the memory of his valuable service to the State of Maine.

The colonists of New England enjoyed from the beginning a large measure of independence. Their charters bestowed upon them, according to the Declaration (June, 1661) of the General Court of Massachusetts, absolute freedom of government. Their pledges of devotion to the Crown and the empire were regarded as almost mere courtesies. Many of the colonies had attained what is now described as Dominion status. When the province of Massachusetts decided in 1668 to absorb the State of Maine the movement was not first discussed with the home Government. A subsequent despatch to England reported that when the Commissioners of Massachusetts arrived at York, supported by a party of armed horsemen, the Justices of Maine disputed their authority. After a display for force had overruled this opposition the Commissioners took oaths of allegiance to their State from all save one of the Associates of York County. This exception was Roger, who observed that he had been sent by his town to meet the Commissioners, and to know "by what right the Government of



*From a photograph by
Mrs. Plaisted, Medmenham.*

DURNFORD MILL, NEAR MARLBOROUGH

The birthplace of Roger Plaisted (1624-75) of New England. In the foreground is the Kennet. The mill stream runs to the left of the picture. It is the only mill on that part of the river still in regular service.

Massachusetts Bay claimed to govern Maine, and were they to submit to it, that he might render himself faithful to those that sent him." A few months later, Roger having delivered an account of his negotiations, he took office under the Commissioners whom he had previously withstood, and in the same year he was made Lieutenant under the authority of Massachusetts.

In the personal character of Roger there was a vigorous strain of devotion undoubtedly heroic, of tremendous religious fervour, combined with that indomitable spirit which refuses to contemplate failure. To a great extent it was the very foundation of the community in which he lived. Traces of that outlook may be discerned in the names of his children. Those born in earlier years followed the tradition of the family name: Roger and William. The others are James and John, sons of thunder; Elisha, God is salvation; Ichabod, the glory has departed; Elizabeth, God is health; and Mehetabel, God confers benefits, whose fragrant name, fresh with the breath of heaven, was something of an inspiration.

Much of the strength of the original settler was born of a sturdy Puritanism, and was bound up with religion. It proved a valuable quality in many an emergency. He worked at his appointed task with a psalm on his lips, a prayer in his heart, and a gun within reach, for he was in constant danger of sudden attack from hostile tribes. One of these skirmishes was attended with lamentable results, and it stands as an example of the perils which were always imminent. A body of Indians gathered in October, 1675, towards the settlement of Salmon Fields, and surprising Richard Tozier at his house, half a mile from the fort, killed him and captured his son. Lieutenant Roger Plaisted, in command of the garrison, heard the firing and sent seven men to find the cause, some of whom were also killed. Roger at once despatched the following letter for assistance:

Salmon Fields,
October 16, 1675.

MR. RICHARD WALDERNE and LT. COFFIN.

These are to inform you that just now the Indians are engaged with us, with at least 100 men, and have slain four

of our men already. (Names.) Sir, if ever you have any love for us and the County, now show yourself with men to help us, or else we are all in great danger to be slain, unless God wonderfully appears for our deliverance. They that cannot fight, let them pray. Nought else, but I rest,

Yours to serve you,

Signed by ROGER PLAISTED,
GEORGE BOUGHTON.

Major Waldron at that time did not feel himself in a position to weaken his own forces, and had Roger been as discreet as he was valiant his garrison might have put up a safe defence : but venturing out with an ox team guarded by twenty men they recovered the body of Richard Tozier, and were gathering their other dead in the swamp near the fort when they fell into ambush. Roger and his sons bravely covered a fighting retreat to safety, but they were overwhelmed by numbers. Roger and his eldest son were killed in the retreat, and a younger son was so wounded that he died within a few short weeks. They were buried on their own land, near where they fell, in full view of the highway which now passes through Berwick.

This calamity created throughout the colony a wave of indignation, in consequence of which Major Waldron was removed from office, because he had not sent help to relieve the situation at Salmon Fields. The following year a petition was presented by certain people praying that he might be restored, one supporter being William Plaisted, the eldest surviving son of Roger. Twelve years later William was again a petitioner, but on that occasion it was a remonstrance against removing the local records from Berwick to Scarborough. Beyond these bare facts about him, history is silent. A letter written by Joshua Moody and printed by the Massachusetts Historical Society remarks that William "had been married four or five years before 2nd September, 1683, when his wife gave birth to her first child at Kittery," but we have failed to find evidence of his posterity ; the scattered descendants in Maine with whom we meet in the eighteenth century have little to connect them with earlier generations. Such registers as were kept by the Churches in New England share the blemishes familiar in our own country, with the added disadvantage that very

few early records have survived. We are immensely indebted to the diligent research of the Historical Societies of the United States in more recent years, for without the fruit of their labours we should have been faced with an impossible task.

A few years after the death of Roger, his widow Olive married John Wincoll, an early settler at Berwick. Her new name appeared in the Articles of Agreement (16th September, 1682), drawn up between the members of the family for the distribution of the father's estate. The next younger brother of William appears to have been James (*c.* 1652–1710), of whom we know little except that he followed the primrose path and became a legal luminary at York, where in 1699 he was nominated Town Clerk. James was also a member of the Council of Massachusetts Bay, and upon his appointment (May, 1701) he “subscribed to the Test and Association.” His first wife was Lydia, daughter of Richard and Lucretia Hitchcock of Saco, and she died in 1689–90. Five years later James wedded Mrs. Mary Hull, daughter of Edward and Susannah Rishworth, and widow of Phineas Hull, also of York. Before this second marriage Mary had been captured with two of her children by the Indians of Arcadia (25th January, 1692), being subsequently “redeemed from Qubek by Matt. Cary in October, 1695.” The latter date must be inexact, because earlier in that year Mary married James at York. Among the records of his municipal life will be found the names of his children and those of his second wife by her former marriage. There were two daughters and one son of the second marriage: Lydia (*b.* 1696), Olive (*b.* 1698) who became the wife of Samuel Jordan of Biddeford, and subsequently of Rev. Thomas Smith of Portland; and Joseph (*c.* 1700–50) who married Mary Preble of York. This Joseph is named in the Belcher Papers as having been the successor of Sheriff Wheelwright (1734–5), but of his posterity we have no precise knowledge beyond that there are several descendants of his line in the present generation.

The fourth son of Roger of Kittery was John Plaisted (*c.* 1654–1727), who removed about 1679 to Portsmouth, N.H., where he became a distinguished citizen. John was a

member of the council of State (1693-1727), being one of the six persons nominated by the Governor of the province ; he was also the representative for Portsmouth in the General Assembly, and Speaker of the House of Assembly (1696-1727). The amalgamation of New Hampshire with the province of Massachusetts Bay brought to the lesser state certain disadvantages, which were set out in an address (1692) endorsed by John on behalf of the inhabitants of New Hampshire, demanding equal privileges with Massachusetts. For a while John came into the limelight (1707-9) in a breeze with Governor Dudley and the Colonial Office at Whitehall, then known as the Committee of Trades and Plantations, over masts for ships which John and a certain Mr. Micoe had contracted to supply to a merchant in London for the Royal Navy. The Governor disputed their right to provide such a contract from the King's Woods in New England. John maintained there was no law forbidding him to fell and dispose of timber. The Committee at Whitehall ordered a prosecution, but they lost their case when it was tried before a jury at Boston, so the lumber business continued. This John was one of the Royal Commissioners in New England (1702-16), Judge of the Supreme Court from 1699, and Chief Justice of New Hampshire from 1716. He married Mary, daughter of John Pickering of Portsmouth, N.H., who went out from England in 1635, and they had children : John (1682-1712), Joshua (b. 1685), Mary (b. 1687), Elisha, James, and Mehetabel, who married Captain Gerrish.

Of all the sons of Roger least is known of Elisha, partly because he was cut off before the prime of life. Forsaking the adventurous career of a frontiersman of the forest Elisha chose the freedom of the open sea. He was part owner of the ship *Friends*. The name of his vessel inclines us to the view that Elisha was influenced by the Quaker Movement. He seems to have traded between the ports of New England and the Delaware River as well as to the West Indies. William Penn had set sail from England in the ship *Welcome* in 1682 to found the colony of Pennsylvania which perpetuated his name in the New World. In his last voyage with the *Friends*, Elisha embarked as one of the crew, and at the time of his decease he was just over thirty years of age.

Elisha married Elisabeth Harvey, of Portsmouth, Maine, to whom he bequeathed his principal property, and so far as we are aware they had no children.

Among the political problems which beset the development of New England, and provided the ground for frequent controversy, few were more fruitful of trouble than the lumber trade. A good deal of correspondence with the Committee of Trades and Plantations had reference to questions which needed settlement. At one time the Governor was alarmed and vexed lest "a great quantity of timber shipped on board the *Friends Adventure* for Portugal," by John Plaisted and others, "might be converted for the use of the French King." On another occasion the Indians are a source of trouble, "for they cut down whatever they come upon for boards." There were many complaints about cutting down trees not duly surveyed. These questions arose principally from the impossibility of controlling pioneer activities under the obsolete restrictions imposed by a Government remote from the arena of activity, coupled with the fact that the Keeper of the King's Woods spent most of his time in England. To deal more adequately with this situation the Governor secured the appointment of Captain Ichabod Plaisted, another son of Roger, as Deputy Surveyor of H.M. Woods in New England (12th February, 1700), at a salary of £50 a year, which was afterwards doubled. About that time Ichabod blossomed into prominence in the provincial Council of New Hampshire, having been for one thing deputed by that body (15th October, 1697) "to congratulate the arrival of my Lord Bellamont at New York," on taking up the post of Governor. He was afterwards "nominated by H.E. the Governor as J.P. in the County of York," being duly appointed to that dignity (12th June, 1701) by the Council of Massachusetts Bay.

Fierce wars and many lesser outbursts arose before friendly relations were established with the Indian tribes of New England. Their earlier attitude was one of unmistakable hostility. The very existence of comparative calm was often no more than the prelude to an approaching storm, and Ichabod appears to have been a special object of their displeasure :

"The Lt. Govr. having been credibly informed that the Indians by their late carriage in some of the frontier towns have given just occasion of suspicion that they design mischief against us, ordered that . . . (a number of Captains send each two men) to the house of Capt. Plaisted daily until further order."

*Minutes of the Council of New Hampshire,
4th May, 1702.*

Ichabod had been born at Kittery in 1663, the youngest son of Roger, so he was still a boy when his father died. After the division of the family estate he lived for some years at Portsmouth. There he married Mary, youngest daughter of Christopher Jose, by whom he had several children, including Samuel (1696-1731), Ichabod II (1700-62), Mary (1702-46), and Olive (*b.* 1708). His estate at that time was of considerable extent. Both his sons were graduates of Harvard. Upon Ichabod's appointment as Deputy Surveyor of H.M. Woods he moved again to Kittery, to that part which was set off and afterwards incorporated as Berwick, where Ichabod is named among the seventeen founders of the First Church of Berwick, Maine. He also bestowed upon the Church certain furnishings :

"Two silver Cupps, a Table Cloth and Napkins were given to the Church to furnish the Communion Table by Capt. Ichabod Plaisted."

*Record of the First Church of Berwick,
2nd May, 1703.*

When he had settled again in the surroundings of his youth, Ichabod was elected a member of the Council of Maine (1706-15), as well as Justice of the Court of Common Pleas (1702). The opinion of his own nation on Ichabod's life and influence is concisely expressed in Williamson's *History*, which concludes : "No other name of his time in the Province of Maine was more distinguished in military matters and in the service of the Province." Among all his noble qualities Ichabod had a quaint strain of humour. The following remarkable specimen of hymenean heraldry appears in the Jeffries Collection of seals used for his correspondence as a Minister of State ; concluding with the caustic but delightful motto : "One is enough for me" !

Seal : Cupid standing before an altar on which 3 hearts are burning, in sinister hand a bow, in dexter upraised hand a heart burning. *Motto* : " Un me sufit."

The tactics of the Indians took the form of guerilla warfare, and of sudden raids, producing captives held to ransom. The calamity which Ichabod luckily escaped had actually befallen his younger sister Mehetabel, daughter of Roger I. The romance of her adventures alone would provide sufficient dramatic material for an enthralling story. Mehetabel could not have been ten years of age when she lost her father and brother so tragically at Kittery. She was just over twenty when she was herself captured by the Indians, at Berwick, 18th March, 1690, some time after her marriage to Thomas Goodwin. Five years were spent in captivity, wandering in the wilds of Canada, far from civilisation, while negotiations were slowly proceeding for her ransom. In the end she was restored to her husband, and became the mother of Thomas Goodwin Jr. (1697), and Ichabod Goodwin (1700). A grandson of the latter, Dr. Thomas S. Goodwin, died in 1885 at Portland.

Another similar adventure but of shorter duration was experienced by Elisha II, third son of John I of Berwick, on 16th September, 1712, two days after his marriage to Hannah Wheelwright of Wells. We will quote part of an account which appeared in the contemporary press :

Piscatqua, Sept., 19. Yesterday, several gentlemen and others who accompanied Mr. Elisha Plaisted on his marriage to Mr. Wheelwright's daughter of Wells, designing to return, they miss'd two of their horses, upon which three of the Co. went to see for them, viz. . . . The former two the Indians killed and the last wounded. Upon hearing the guns Monsieur Elisha Plaisted, Roger Plaisted, mounted each a horse, well armed and with about a dozen soldiers pursued, but were ambuscaded. All made escape except Mr. Elisha whom they took captive.

Boston News Letter. 440. Sept. 15-22, 1712.

A few days later Elisha was redeemed by his father on payment of a large sum, stated to have been £300. The same Elisha became representative from Kittery (1714) to

the General Court. When in the following year (22nd March, 1715) the town of Berwick was formed and incorporated, Elisha was one of the first of the selected men.

The slave trade, which has proved the plague of America, was never regarded with horror by its participants, but was accepted as part of the divinely ordained economic order. Just as the submerged classes in England until the emancipation of labour were literally and in fact the slaves of the manorial lord, so throughout history bondage has ever been the fate of the depressed races. In the time of Queen Elizabeth there was much activity in providing the labour markets of the West Indies and New England, where slaves were in brisk demand, and on the whole their condition varied from a state of benevolent feudalism to a condition of inhuman barbarity. They enjoyed in many places the privileges of church membership, even if sometimes they lapsed from the path of virtue :

- 1742. Apl. 18. Cuff Capt. Plaisted's Negro owned the Covt. & was bapt.
- 1744. Jan. 29. Cuff Elisha Plaisted's Negro was suspended from the Communion of ye Church . . .
- 1745. Apl. 4. Voted that Capt. Plaisted's Negro Cuff who notified his repentance to the Church's satisfaction . . . be restored to the fellowship of the Church.

Records of the First Church of Berwick, Maine.

In the few extracts reproduced elsewhere from Maine Wills (1640-1760) slaves formed a valuable part of the personal estate, but this is not the place to enter into its further implications, or to speak of the growing movement for emancipation.

Up to this stage we have been able to present a fairly comprehensive narrative of the scattered incidents gathering around Roger of Kittery and his immediate family. They have left no memorials behind them, but among the epitaphs which marked their departure we must recount one better known than any other. On the road leading from South Berwick to Great Falls, N.H., on the Maine side of Salmon Falls River, near an old barn may still be seen a slab of freestone 5 ft. 2 in. in length, 2 ft. 7 in. wide, and

7 in. thick, bearing the following inscription, which time has now rendered almost illegible :

“ Here lies interred ye body of Samuel Plaisted Esq., Eldest son of Capt. Ichabod Plaisted Esq., who departed this life March ye 20, 1731, in ye 36 year of his age. Near unto this place lies buried the body of Roger Plaisted Esq., grandfather to the said Samuel Plaisted, who was killed by ye Indians Oct. ye 16, 1675. Aged 48 years. Also ye body of his Eldest son Mr. Roger Plaisted, who was killed at ye same time with his father.”

The marriage of Elisha II, with its unpromising beginning, proved happy enough in its conclusion. The sterling qualities of John I and Mary descended in a rich measure to this line of posterity. It may be that fate has more kindly preserved traces of Elisha, or that his successors made a more determined attempt to rescue the threads of evidence from oblivion. They certainly produced outstanding men and women in their generations. The links which patience has collected enable us to trace a clear descent in certain directions down to the present time. The ten children of Elisha and Hannah, duly set in tabular form, were all born at Berwick, where most of them were also baptised. Elisha was an early proprietor at Scarborough, at which place on the marriage of his son Samuel to Elizabeth Libby (*m.* 1753) he bestowed upon them a farm at Winnocks Neck, the birthplace of their twelve children. After the decease of his wife, Samuel retired to Limington, and spent his declining years in the household of Joseph Moody, the husband of his daughter Elizabeth. The other children of Samuel also married and settled in the near distance : Hannah (*b.* 1754) at Kittery ; John (*b.* 1759) and Abigail at Standish ; Samuel (*b.* 1762) and Andrew (*b.* 1763) at Gorham ; Simon at Limington, William at Portland, and Mary at Waterford. Of Elisha (*b.* 1755) and Esther (*b.* 1757) we have no trace. Peculiar interest attaches to the fact that the sixth child Andrew of Gorham married Molly Libby (*m.* 1786), by whom he had eight children ; then the sixth child of Andrew and Molly married Mary G. Libby at Gorham, where we believe their descendants are still to be found. This example of three succeeding generations marrying into the same

family was repeated at New Hampton, where three consecutive generations married into the Huckins family.

The next younger brother to Samuel of Scarborough was William of Berwick, born there 1729, who afterwards became the owner of a lumber mill in that place. Soon after attaining his majority William married (1752) Jane Hight. Before reaching middle life he was killed in an Indian foray at Berwick (1768), but we have no knowledge of the circumstances. For many years Maine was the scene of constant frontier warfare with the Indians. It is said that 600 of its inhabitants perished before peaceful conditions prevailed. In 1774 William's widow married Ebenezer Lord of Berwick, and despite her early tribulations she lived to be 85 years of age. The seven children of her first marriage have many descendants in Maine, of whom the more distinguished were in the line of Samuel III, to whom we will shortly return. It is remarkable to reflect that under the one- or two-child system of modern life many of the world's most famous men and women would never have been born. A good deal of support for that theory exists in New England. Samuel III, of Berwick, who left a distinguished name, was the sixth son of William, while William himself was the ninth child of Elisha II. Whatever may be the merits of primogeniture in the descent of a family estate, there is no argument to support that hypothesis in the matter of brains.

The state of unrest then prevalent, constantly provoked by the Indians, was accentuated by petty squabbles between the states and by endless wrangles with the home Government. All the thirteen colonies were mutually jealous. In the Ohio Valley the English and French settlers came into frequent collision, creating a state of war between themselves. These issues were brought to a climax by a movement of the French which had as its objective an empire of the New World. A serious grievance had arisen in the States through the scheme of the French to cut off the hinterland of New England by a chain of fortresses from the Great Lakes to New Orleans. That quarrel produced the Seven Years War with France (1755-63), very costly to England, and it ended in driving the French out of North America. Subsequent ill-advised attempts to get something

towards the cost of the war out of the colonists proved fruitless. Parliament showed a conciliatory spirit, but the basis of resistance was shifted on the emergency of the moment. Benjamin Franklin was invited to explain the colonists' position at the bar of the House of Commons. Negotiations were not wisely conducted on either side. Nothing seemed sufficient to prevent a rebellion which led to the disruption of the first British Empire. This trouble focused in a complaint that the colonists were obliged to pay three pence a pound duty on tea : the real grievance was that the East India Company, which had the British monopoly in New England, started underselling the Boston merchants who had their warehouses stacked with smuggled Dutch tea. When the kettle boiled over and hostilities broke out at Lexington, the Government found themselves "plunged at once in a most serious war without a single requisition, gunpowder excepted, for carrying it on." Opinion was divided in England no less than in America. There was never any enthusiasm in this country for war with the colonists who had settled overseas mainly from Britain. After the surrender of Lord Cornwallis to George Washington in October, 1781, the war virtually ended. The insistence of King George III that it should be fought out to a victorious conclusion was met by the positive refusal of his ministers to proceed any longer with a task for which they had no heart. The House of Commons accepted without a division a strongly worded resolution against the continuation of the war in America.

While the Revolution in America was in its early development, the enthusiasm for a republic, which was becoming evident in France, attracted to the standard of George Washington some eminent soldiers of fortune. Among these were the Marquis de Lafayette, a typical young aristocrat but a stern republican, nominated by Congress as unattached Major General without pay in the Delaware Campaign ; and the Chevalier Mauduit du Plessis, who as chief engineer and commandant of the defences was instrumental in the severe defeat of Colonel von Donop at Fort Mercer (22nd October, 1777). Within a month the situation was reversed, for the republicans evacuated the

fort on the approach of the Marquis Cornwallis, and for a time the Royal troops controlled all the avenues leading to Philadelphia. We have remarked upon the recurrence of the name Mauduit in the family du Plessis or de Pleistede. The long arm of coincidence here shows us a representative of the French family du Plessis appearing unexpectedly in the American War of Independence, and opposed by the Marquis Cornwallis, a direct descendant of Sir Thomas Pleistede, of Arlington, Sussex. Roger Plaisted (1758-1848) of Buxton, Lieutenant William Plaisted (*b.* 1751) of Moulton's Gore, and Samuel Plaisted (1757-1833), all served with the revolutionary army: Joseph Plaisted was killed at York (1781), "wounded by a gun," and Ichabod Plaisted IV was Naval Officer for the port of Nantucket from 1776 to 1782, the year of his decease. At the conclusion of this struggle two nations were left to work out their separate destinies.

We will now return to Berwick, where Samuel III was born in 1766, the son of William and Jane. At the age of 21 years Samuel became the agent of Colonel Joseph Whipple of Portsmouth, then called Dartmouth or Whipple's Dale, of which the colonel was the proprietor. Samuel became its first postmaster, and for a hundred years that office remained in his family. He married Elizabeth Hart of Portsmouth, by whom he had six sons and one daughter. Samuel became a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, and in 1820 was also member of the legislature from Lancaster and Jefferson. His sons became farmers in Jefferson, where their descendants still flourish. The youngest son, Hon. Benjamin H. Plaisted, was prominent in public affairs, being for many years a member of the legislature, and of the constitutional convention, as well as railway commissioner for the State. One of the elder sons, William (*b.* 1792), married Nancy Merrill (*b.* 1795), daughter of Thomas Merrill, an early settler at Conway, N.H. William and Nancy were founders and principal pillars of the Baptist Church in Jefferson.

There were nine children of William and Nancy born in Jefferson, several of whom gained merit in their spheres of enterprise. William flourished as a tanner at Stetson,

Lincoln, and Princeton, East Maine, becoming a member of the State Senate from Penobscot County. Charles was a farmer in Lancaster, N.H., and represented his town in the legislature. Hannah married Cyrus C. Church of Bradford, Maine. Thomas N. died at Gardiner, at the age of 22 years. Catherine married Rev. Charles Bailey of New York. Elijah Freeman, a graduate of the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, was a surgeon at Phillips, Maine. Harris Merrill rose to eminence in the law and in the service of his country. Mary Ann became the wife of James Spaulding of Lancaster, N.H. John H. maintained the family tradition by remaining a farmer in the old homestead at Jefferson to the end of his days.

Harris Merrill, son of William and Nancy Plaisted, born at Jefferson (b. 1828), spent his earlier years on the farm, receiving his education at the district school during the winter terms. At the age of 20 years he attended the Lancaster Academy during the winter, working at other times on the land. In 1849 he entered Waterville College, paying his way by vacation employment. Four years later he joined the Law School of Albany University, graduated with honours, and won the gold medal for an essay on Equity Jurisprudence. Harris was admitted to the Maine Bar in August, 1856, when he entered on a law practice at Bangor, Maine.

Scarcely had he settled down to the serious business of life when dark clouds gathered on the horizon. The slave-owning Southern States attempted to dominate the political life of the Union ; at the same time an increasing agitation was made for the abolition of slavery. The Northern States were more interested in developing their natural resources and in their business affairs than in the academics of sociology or questions of politics. They were not even convinced that any urgency existed for the abolition of slavery. The choice of Abraham Lincoln as president brought the whole question to an issue. It was not part of the president's policy at first to abolish slavery, but he stood firm against foisting that "peculiar institution" on new States being formed in the west. The answer of the South was to secede from the Union under Jefferson Davis as president of

a new Confederacy, which solution the Northern States determined to contest by force of arms. A Civil War which had its origin in the question of slavery thus became a struggle for Union against Secession. It was fought by the Northern States on the issue of the Union, but when in 1862 President Lincoln proclaimed the freedom of slaves in the slave-owning States, the final issue before the country was made clear.

In this controversy Harris Plaisted strongly advocated the necessity for settling their differences in a decisive manner. When recording his vote for President Lincoln on 6th November, 1860, he determined that if war subvened he would sustain his pledge in the army. The opportunity soon arose. The first blow was struck by the Southern Confederacy on 12th April, 1861, and it came in an attack on Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbour. In the following autumn Harris raised a company of soldiers, of which he was commissioned Lieutenant Colonel, and after a winter at Washington spent in study and drill, his regiment took part in the Peninsular Campaign, during which he was made Colonel. At the close of the year Colonel Plaisted was attached to the Department of the South, where under General Gilmore he assisted in the operations at Morris Island, as well as the siege of Fort Sumter and Charleston, which were the garrisons of the South. In the following spring Colonel Plaisted was transferred with his brigade to Virginia, being present in the campaign of 1864-5 with General Grant against Richmond and Petersburg. He was warmly commended for promotion by his Corps Commander in the following despatch :

“Colonel Plaisted is a brave, patriotic and loyal man, and has faithfully served the country since early in the War. His regiment is not only one of the best in the Tenth Army Corps, but one of the best which I have ever seen. He is more than ordinarily attentive and zealous in the performance of his duty, and equally careful for the comfort of his men. In the battle of the 7th (New Market Road) he handled his brigade with marked skill and ability, and it is as much due to his efforts as to the efforts of anyone that our flank was not turned and the battle not lost.”

Report of General Terry, May, 1864.

The excellence of Colonel Plaisted in the field was due as

much to personal influence as to his military skill and ability. He insisted on the abstinence of officers as well as men, refused to approve requisitions for whisky, and persuaded soldiers to send home their pay. His own health was broken by exposure and ague, but he maintained his activity until the heavy fighting was over ; then in March, 1865, he applied for his discharge, at which time he held the office of Major General by brevet, having been twice promoted for meritorious conduct in the field.

The real sympathy of people in England during the Civil War was with the Northern States, where many yeoman families and industrial emigrants had settled, creating a spirit of comradeship between the two nations. A great deal of mischief was aroused, however, through the indiscretion of certain English politicians, exaggerated by aggrieved immigrants from Ireland. Lord Palmerston, the Prime Minister, and several of his colleagues had a distinct bias to the South : whereas Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort inclined slightly, but unobtrusively, to the North. The tragedy of Abraham Lincoln's assassination on 15th April, 1865, in the very hour of triumph, created a tremendous wave of sympathy between all classes in England and America. A statue of the President to-day occupies a place of national esteem at Westminster, where he stands in silent dignity, gazing down on the Sanctuary near Westminster Abbey, among those few great statesmen of the past whom England has delighted to honour.

When his health permitted General Plaisted to resume his legal work at Bangor, he became a representative in the state legislature (1867-8), and in 1875 was elected Attorney General for Maine. Four years later he resigned that office to become a Member of Congress, where he rendered useful national service. President Grant offered him the post of Chief Justice of Washington and Wyoming, and a remunerative legal office at Dakota, all of which he declined, being unwilling to leave Maine. A few years later General Plaisted was elected Governor of Maine (1880), which post he occupied for two years. He was editor (1883-91) of *The New Age*, and was the writer of several notable works, including a *Digest of the Maine Reports* (Plaisted and Appleton).

The first wife of General Harris Plaisted, whom he married on 21st September, 1858, was Sarah, daughter of Mr. Chase P. Mason, of Waterville. They had three sons: Harold Mason (*b.* 1861), a prominent lawyer of St. Louis; Frederick William (*b.* 1865), who succeeded to *The New Age* and became (1911) Governor of Maine; and Ralph Parker (*b.* 1871), who at the time of his death in 1914 was a Judge of the Bangor Municipal Court, Maine. Sarah died in 1875, at the age of 40 years, and the General next married Mabel True (*m.* 1881), daughter of Hon. Francis W. Hill, of Exeter, the one child of this marriage being Gertrude Hill Plaisted (*b.* 1890).

Any further personal remarks on the present generation would be incomplete and impertinent in a work which professes to deal with the past; but some valuable notes on the Bangor branch of the family have been published in a work, *Plaisted of Maine*, to which we refer our readers for a more complete biography of General Harris Plaisted and his immediate successors.

We have gathered up elsewhere certain references to the family in New England which could not be fitted into the tables of descent, mainly because our particulars are incomplete in their early stages. So far as documentary evidence goes we have placed the generations in their apparent order, leaving others to complete an unfinished task. On the whole we would say that the derivation of the family strain in Maine and New Hampshire is from Roger of Kittery, but the line of succession is not always clear.

NEW YORK AND PENNSYLVANIA. SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

With this conclusion fairly established we will next turn to an early mention of the family at New York, where "Richard Plaisted was made a Freeman of the City . . . in the mayoralty of Chas. Lodwick Esq.," 27th March, 1694, twenty years after that city had been recovered from the Dutch. During the following years his name continues to appear as a man of substance in the Tax Lists of New York. Where are we to seek for his origin? On what ground was he attracted to New York? We venture the opinion that he was of Ashendon, Bucks, where one Richard Plaisted was



Harris M. Plaisted

GENERAL HARRIS MERRILL PLAISTED (1828-98)

Attorney-General, afterwards Governor of Maine ; Editor of " The New Age."

(See pp. 175-8)

baptised in 1633, the second son of Richard and Margaret, the father being fifth in direct line from Thomas Plaisted of Policot. It seems probable that Richard reached New England through the influence of William Penn, and that he was there engaged in commerce with this country. These suggestions are more than probable when it is remembered that from 1682 the region of the Delaware River was being colonised by the Quakers, much of the commerce being conducted via New York; that Quakerism had its first home in the Penn country of Bucks; and that many of its early adherents were well-to-do people.

The remarkable thing about Puritanism in this country was that its followers could never make up their minds with any unanimity what were the true principles of orthodoxy. They were as much divided among themselves as they were collectively opposed to the Church of England. Independents and Presbyterians fought one another with hard words from the Bible, each party demanding the suppression of its rivals, and neither of them clear or precise in their apprehension of the truth. Then in the midst of this babel of tongues arose George Fox and John Bunyan, preaching the doctrine of the inner light, revivalist in its message, although staid and quiet in its later development. One of the principal leaders in that movement was William Penn, son of a Sir William Penn who had been one of Oliver Cromwell's admirals, and the new religion was cradled in Bucks, where Jordans has been called the Westminster Abbey of the Friends. We have ample proof that the Plaisted family of Ashendon and Hardwick had early associations with New England, but further traces of Richard or his descendants cannot be found on either side of the water. He may have shared the experience of William Penn in that he was only a sojourner, also in that he returned to spend his latter days in England.

MASSACHUSETTS AND NEW HAMPSHIRE. EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

Thomas Plaisted (1639-1724), who was born at Hardwick, Bucks, married Rebecca, daughter of John Stonier, a prosperous shipwright of Whitechapel and Laleham, Middlesex.

One of their sons, Thomas (1670-1750) of Laleham, an eminent distiller, joined the noble company of Merchant Adventurers. He scoured the world for commerce, in course of which he came into collision (1726) with H.M. Excise for attempting to smuggle contraband snuff into England. We next find Thomas domiciled at Boston, Mass., encouraging the production of potash for the manufacture of soap :

“Petition of Thomas Plaisted of London, merchant, to Lords of Treasury. Petitioner was charged with running 1,000 lbs. of snuff, and gave bond for payment of £200 amount of duty. Prays that the bond may be given up on payment for £33 6s. 8d. and for a *nolle prosequi* to be entered. Also a scheme to prevent running of snuff submitted.”

3rd May, 1726.

“Petition to the Governor of Mass. Bay &c., from Thomas Plaisted, merchant, late of London, now of Boston, New England, asking for the encouragement of the manufacture of pott-ash for soap.” Before 29th December, 1735.

Calendar of State Papers. Treasury Books.

This Thomas Plaisted Junior appears among the subscribers to Prince's *Chronology*, which is a list of individuals regarded as the principal *literati* of New England about the beginning of the eighteenth century. He was also a speculator in real estate. Thomas ended his days in London or Bury St. Edmunds, leaving a will (1746) which bestowed upon his wife Susannah and his daughter Rebecca, whom he appointed trustees, all his investments including “land in the town of Lancaster, in the County of Worcester, New England.” His only son Thomas was dismissed with an annuity of £20 a year, having incurred his father's displeasure. The estate in New England is again referred to in the will of Susannah, who died thirty years later at Bury St. Edmunds, but as her effects in 1868 were still unproven, the land had been evidently abandoned to the moles and the bats, or had been appropriated by some more enterprising speculator.

The son of Thomas and Susannah had been indentured to an attorney in the City of London some years before his father's decease :

26th March, 1741. Thomas Plaisted, son of Thomas of New England. To Thomas Rutherford, Haberdashers Hall, Attorney. £150.

City of London Apprenticeship Certificates.

We cannot find that this budding attorney qualified as a solicitor, and we have failed to light upon further traces of him in England. What apparently happened is that he returned to New England, where he became a remittance man, and in this venture he was accompanied by his cousin William, whose father was also a distiller and citizen of London. That hypothesis is supported by evidence in New England, where we discovered a tradition that: "About the middle of the eighteenth century two Plaisteds settled in Maine or New Hampshire, where one made his permanent home, but the other migrated west into Vermont; then later on he or a son wandered west again into Central New York, near Syracuse." History of that sort is vague and shadowy, therefore we simply relate the facts for what they are worth. Others may be able to disprove them, or to drape the skeleton with living material. The antecedents of those who were of New York State in the eighteenth century should perhaps be sought in this line of origin rather than among the stock settled in the State of Maine.

With this nebulous proposal we will consider the above cousin William. In the deeds of New Hampshire (Vol. 27, p. 475) we find a William Plaisted purchasing land (1743) at Somersworth, where he married Judith Ricker, on which occasion he described himself as a mariner. This William cannot be identified with any of the collateral branches of Maine without raising more difficulty than the suggestion might solve. The four children of William and Judith were Hannah (b. 1745), William II (b. 1750), Olive, and Samuel (b. 1757). The tang of the sea supports the assumption that William was a wanderer. He also appears to have remained in the shipping trade until the end of his days:

1782. New Hampshire. Brigantine "Roxene": 4 guns: 16 crew: Bond 20,000 dol. Master R. Kitson. Bonders: R. Kitson, Portsmouth; William Plaisted, Portsmouth.

Master Tate's Diary at Somersworth records that William II married Anne Ford, daughter of John Ford of Berwick, by whom he had children : Daniel (*b.* 1770), and Naomi (*b.* 1771), born at Somersworth ; and Ford (*b.* 1775), born at Moulton's Gore, whither the three generations had then removed. The second wife of William II was Hannah Huckins (*b.* 1749), whose children were : Benning Moulton (*b.* 1785), Hiram (*b.* 1787), William III (*b.* 1789), and Nancy (*b.* 1790). At New Hampton the father and sons possessed grants of land on the east slope of Pettee Hill, at the head of Plaisted's Brook, where they were all farmers except William III, who followed that occupation at Centre Harbour. Nancy became the wife of the Rev. Walter Sleeper, clergyman of Bristol.

Samuel, who was born at Somersworth, married Margery Huckins (*m.* 1781), by whom he had nine children. In the next generation history was repeated, for Samuel the son of Samuel and Margery married his cousin Nancy Huckins. This fashion rapidly developed into an epidemic. Out of the nine children of Samuel and Nancy six of them married cousins of the Huckins stock. To set out their generations here would be more confusing than helpful. It is probable that from this source came the family now settled at Chicago, where Frank Hughey Plaisted (*b.* 1866), son of Joseph Plaisted of Cincinnati and formerly of Northern New York, is now Freight Traffic Manager of the Southern Pacific Lines. If we have failed to do justice to these and to others it is because the connecting links vanish at times to an elusive thread, and we have been unable to discover any more intimate biographical material.

NEW YORK. NINETEENTH CENTURY

The family stock of North Wilts had produced Roger of Kittery, and through Westbury-on-Severn descended to Richard (1745-1809) of Mathern. His span of years witnessed a wonderful development of waste land in this country, brought into cultivation to provide food for a rapidly increasing population, at a time when a series of wars cut off supplies from overseas. The farm at Westbury, which Richard bestowed upon his son John X, had been expanded

to larger limits, while the estate farmed by Richard at Mathern had never before been under cultivation. There was a tremendous boom in agriculture. Soaring prices and a ready market produced an easy affluence which gave farmers a sense of false security. But the same factors which from 1760 transformed waste land into fruitful fields, and enabled England to lead the world in scientific agriculture, also produced the collapse of the industry when prices came tumbling down after the wars with Napoleon. Many of the landlords and larger farmers who, in the expectation of undiminished prosperity, had unwisely mortgaged their estates to provide the cost of expensive improvements, then found themselves in such difficulty that a large proportion became bankrupt.

In that crisis the artificial stimulant of the Corn Laws did little more than prolong the agony of the severe depression. This condition was further aggravated by the rotten practice of supplementing agricultural wages out of the poor rates, which was the nineteenth-century solution of the "cost of living" problem. John X of Westbury escaped the greater severity of the financial blizzard through the fact that he was not a producer of corn on the grand scale, but spread his industry over live-stock, dairy produce, root crops, and poultry, which found a more remunerative sale. Ten years scarcely saw the turn of the tide for better days, but sufficient had transpired to decide John about the future. A preliminary voyage to America confirmed his impression that it was the land of promise for enterprise. He returned to England and disposed of his property in 1827, then with his available capital, accompanied by a young family, he joined the great trek to the United States, just when that country was coming into the limelight as a great world power with an ethos of its own.

When John X reached the shores of America the hope of the future seemed to be beyond the maritime provinces, so leaving behind him the more settled regions of the coast he made up-country for the northern part of the State of New York, and acquired a grant of land at Milo, about three miles from Penn Yan, Yates County. There he settled at the Homestead Farm, which became his future domicile.

His son Daniel was then about 7 years old. In that same place now lives his grandson Daniel Plaisted. The descendants of John X are set out in tabular form elsewhere. A few have drifted afield to occupations in other directions, but the main stream of succession still survives in the neighbourhood of Penn Yan.

The twenty years following the arrival of John X in the United States brought many reports of his progress to Crick Manor Farm at Mathern, to which his brother Joseph had meanwhile succeeded. Those glowing accounts fired the romantic imagination of the sons of Joseph to such an extent that five of them in turn tempted fortune in the same direction, where three remained to establish themselves as farmers on the land. Their resolution was confirmed by the contemplation of affairs nearer home. Uncertainty was prevalent in the whole of Europe, where enfeebled military despotisms seemed toppling off their gilded thrones; the repeal of the Corn Laws had unsettled the agricultural policy of this country; and many eager eyes were looking westward to where the United States was emerging into the daylight of prosperity.

John Plaisted (1826-1903) of Mathern went out about 1850 to his uncle John X, of Milo, accompanied by his brothers William (*b.* 1833) and Henry (*b.* 1834). Soon after his arrival John the younger became a teacher in the neighbouring townships of Barrington and Jerusalem, Yates County. He was a speculator in real estate during those years when mushroom developments were in progress. On the outbreak of Civil War John acquired a farm at Jerusalem, sowed the land with barley, and disposed of his harvest to the Government at such an excellent profit that he was able to complete the purchase of his farm. He then bought another farm at Barrington, where he lived for some years, before removing to Penn Yan. About the year 1890, soon after the death of his first wife Martha Ann Beard, John revisited the home of his youth and his relatives in England, with whom he spent several happy months. He afterwards married Sarah Beard, a niece of his deceased wife, and a few years later (11th June, 1903) died at Penn Yan, leaving no children by either marriage.

William (1833-97) continued to work for a number of years on the farm at Milo, undecided about the future. On the outbreak of Civil War he enlisted with the army of the Northern States, and was taken prisoner, being confined in Libby Prison. He managed with others to break away by digging themselves out of detention and effecting an escape. William then rejoined the Northern Army, with which he remained until the termination of the War. The next few years were spent in prospecting for a future home. He spent two or three years in Canada, discerning there a good hope for the future. The creation of the Dominion of Canada by the statesmanship of Sir John Macdonald, who was himself a Canadian, was just bringing into being a British United States of America. Without settling upon anything definite William returned to Daniel at Milo, where he stayed a further two years. He then determined to go west to the State of Missouri, which seemed to promise the kind of life he was seeking, and in that State he remained on the land near Centralia to the end of his days. He married Amelia Craven, a young widow, and had two daughters Cebina Amelia (*b.* 1882) and Anna May (*b.* 1892), both of whom married before they were twenty. Cebina is the wife of Lon McBride, and Anna's husband is Carl Roy Yarrington.

The days of Henry (*b.* 1834) in the land of his adoption were brief but brilliant. He shared with his brothers the advantage of a sound training, which they had received at Caldicot School long before education became a popular movement in this country. This induced him to cast in his lot amidst the business world of New York, where he secured employment with a city merchant. Three years later he was sent to conduct certain negotiations at New Orleans, in course of which he fell a victim to the prevalent yellow fever, then the curse of that low-lying delta country. His name is commemorated on a tombstone in Caerwent Churchyard, which records that he "died at New Orleans, South America, May 15th, 1853, aged 19 years." The Southern United States were then commonly known as South America.

Cornelius (1836-89) was the ninth child of Joseph and Phoebe of Mathern. Following the footsteps of his elder

brothers he decided in 1853 to explore the prospects of the United States, being then 17 years of age. He spent one winter assisting his brother John at the school: then took employment on the land west of Lake Keuka, which country he found offered admirable conditions for the cultivation of the vine. The news of his father's grave illness (1862) brought Cornelius back to England. Some two years after Joseph's decease Cornelius again went to America, where the Civil War was well in progress. His sympathy was with the Northern States. He enlisted in the 194th regiment of New York Volunteers (Captain Robinson), and was enrolled (7th April, 1865) to serve three years, but the final surrender of General Lee at Appomatox brought the war to a sudden close. In the following month Cornelius was honourably discharged from the service at Elmira, where he was in camp. He received his certificate of citizenship (1866), married Margaret Jayne of Milo (1867), and devoted himself to the peaceful pursuits of life. Soon after his marriage Cornelius bought a farm overlooking the beautiful Lake Keuka, adjoining the Jayne household, and there he was among the first to set out vineyards in the now famous Grape Belt. Cornelius had one son William (*b.* 1868), who married Dora Rapalee of Barrington, Yates Co., and settled near Lake Keuka where he recently died. One daughter, Ida Jane (*b.* 1869), became the wife of Elmer Miles, by whom she had three children: Bertha Luella (1891), Walter Plaisted (1895), and Harold Leslie (1903). The next daughter, Hulda Lillie (*b.* 1872), married a successful farmer, William Grant Gardner, who was killed (1927) at Windermere Farm. She also had two sons, Leland Plaisted (1903) and William Merlin (1906). Harriet Maud (*b.* 1881), the youngest daughter of Cornelius, became the wife of Kleber William Durfee. These all found homes in the near neighbourhood, where their families of the second generation also live and flourish.

CALENDAR OF STATE PAPERS: COLONIAL SERIES: AMERICA AND THE WEST INDIES

29 Sep., 1668, *Black Point*.

The Commissioners of Massachusetts came to York (America) and a party of armed horsemen. " Demanded their errand, and gave them to understand that they had their commission from H.M. Government in 1665 which prohibited them making any alteration in the Government of Maine, when Major Leverett (one of the Commissioners) disputed the authenticity of the document, and said they had their commission some weeks before from the Justices of Maine had that letter, and were resolved to carry on the business. The same day they called their Court by beat of drum, and the Justices having sent their Marshall to call the people to hear His Majesty's pleasure, the Marshall of Boston with some factious persons of York, seized their Marshall . . . The Mass. Commrs. then called their Court, settled their authority, gave oaths to their officers all (except one Mr. Playstead) being of the factious party. . . ." *Indorsed* Letter of the Justices of Maine, being a full account of the Bostoner's proceedings.

Aprl. 9, 1699.

Minutes of Council of New York. Trial of Mariners that ran away with the *Adventure* and were seized in Connecticut decided to be in the Courts of that Colony . . . £5 12s. 0d. paid to Richard Plaisted doorkeeper to the last Assembly.

Sep. 8, *Boston*, 1699.

Governor the Earl of Bellomont to the Lords of the Treasury : " I fear in a very little while unless the whole arrear of subsistence of the Four Companies at New York be already in England, the Victuallers will be broke (they tell me they are out of pocket of £7,000) and the soldiers turned a-grazing. . . . I know by experience 'tis a very hard thing to find honest men in this part of the world to put into employment. The Clerk of the Council at New York and the Naval officers who are the only officers I have here, prove both of them very idle, knavish fellows. They were the best I could get. But a Collector's office is the most ungrateful office that can be ; if he is just to his trust they hate

him mortally, so that I believe a man that's honest and of substance too, would hardly accept a Deputy's place. . . . I desire you will order Mr. Brenton to his post. I should advise your appointing a Collector for Rhodes Island and another for New Hampshire ; they ought to be nicely honest, because they will be liable to temptation. They will deserve £100 each, and because the Collector will have little to do, there being very little trade here, he might be Surveyor of the Woods, and receive that £50 a year, neither he nor Mr. Randolph who had it before him have ever done 6*d.* worth of service for it. Ichabod (Plaisted) and Deputy does as little good as Jahleel (Brenton), nay, does a great deal of hurt, for he trades in lumber, and is building a saw mill to devour more timber. . . . They seem to hate those that are English born as if they were foreigners."

Nov. 24, 1698.

John Plaisted's name appears amongst the "Members of Council and Assembly of New Hampshire" in a despatch to the Earl of Bellomont.

Aug. 7, 1699.

"Minutes of Council and Assembly of New Hampshire: Members of General Assembly." Amongst the names is that of "John Plaisted (for Portsmouth)."

1699.

"List of persons recommended by Lord Bellomont for the Council of New Hampshire": 6 names, including "John Plaisted."

22 Nov., 1699.

Governor the Earl of Bellomont to the Council of Trades and Plantations. "On the 8th instant, Colonel Allen late Governor of N. Hampshire delivered me an information, on oath, that he was told Mr. Partridge, the Lt. Gov., Mr. Hincks, Mr. Holland, and Mr. Plaisted had shipped a great quantity of ship timber on board the "Friends' Adventure," belonging to Mr. Partridge, for Portugal. . . . I was alarmed and vexed not knowing whether it might not be converted to the use of the French King."

17 Jan., 1697/8, Hampton.

Joseph Smith to John Usher, Hampton. "On Dec. 28th I appeared before His little Honour to answer for disturbing the peace. . . . The Assembly withdrew and down comes old Penny with a deposition against Ben Fyfield that he had been urged to say that he was as well contented to be under Mr. Usher as Mr. Partridge, and that those who sent Ichabod Plasteed to New York ought to pay his wages. On their testimony they purged the Assembly of an honest man and issued a writ for the election of another in his place."

12 *Feb.*, 1700.

Wm. Wallis to Council of Trades and Plantations. "Mr. Brenton is so far in the right in his reply that there was no waste of trees in New England, that during the late War the inhabitants could not keep all their mills at work, yet at that time I have seen very great waste and spoil made by the logging trade. Mr. Brenton cannot take so much care of H.M. interest as one whose business daily it is to go into the woods, and therefore I humbly recommend Capt. Jacobed Plaisted who lives upon the place and is altogether fit for the Office of Surveyor of H.M. Woods."

19 *Feb.*, 1700.

Journal of Council of Trades and Plantations — Alluding to trees being cut down, and transported by inhabitants to their own use &c. report states " Mr. Jecabod Plaisted who is the same person that has contracted with Mr. Wallis for masts for H.M. Navy, or some one appointed by him, goes out along with them (the inhabitants) when they cut the trees."

27 *Feb.*, 1700.

Includes "as the surveyor (Mr. Brenton) is so much in England, his Deputy, Ichabod Plaisted, who is very well qualified, may have some larger allowance."

11 *Mch.*, 1701.

Minutes of Council in Assembly of the Mass. Bay

" Payments made to the following Inhabitants . . .

" County of Yorke . . . James Plaisted."

28 *May*, *Boston*, 1701.

Minutes of Council in Assembly of the Mass. Bay

The Representatives having met, took the oaths, and appointed and subscribed to the Test & Association. . . . County of Yorke—James Plaisted.

12 *June*, 1701.

Minutes of Council of the Mass. Bay. The following nominated by H.E. were appointed . . . Capt. Ichabod Plaisted, J.P. in the County of York.

July 10, *Hackney*, 1701.

Respecting the allowance of a sufficient salary to Capt. Ichabod Plaisteed.

July 11, 1701.

Journal of Council of Trades and Plantations :—

Re the foregoing :

Dec. 11.

The Constitution of the Council of New Hampshire, to consist of . . . John Plaisted . . .

Dec. 29, 1701.

Min. of Council of New Hampshire. The complaint of Ichabod Plaisted, Deputy Surveyor of H.M. Woods and Timber against Jeremiah Gilman and others "about cutting down of several trees not surveyed." Defendants submitted, and were fined £9 3s. *od.*

4 May, 1702.

Min. of Council of New Hampshire.

The Lt. Govr. having been credibly informed that the Indians by their late carriage in some of the frontier towns have given just occasion of suspicion that they design mischief against us, ordered that . . . (a number of Captains send each two men) to the house of Capt. Plaisted daily until further order.

May 29, 1702.

Copy of Humble Memorial of the Lt. Govr., Council and representatives of New Hampshire to the King—In reply to your Majesty's letters of June 19 1700/1 stating ignorance of any grounds for complaint as to spoil committed in woods. . . . There is no ground for such complaint as will appear by Mr. Plaisted's certificate. . . .

May 29, 1702.

Certificate of Ichabod Plaisted, Deputy Surveyor of Woods of New Hampshire and the Mass. Bay that having at all times diligently viewed them, he never yet observed the least spoil or embezzlement of any timber fit or for H.M. Service. . . . Signed, ICHABOD PLAISTED.

June 12, 1702, Whitehall.

Council of Trades and Plantations to Governor Dudley. Speaks of Her Majesty having declared war with France and Spain. . . . We have been desired by Mr. Wallis, a merchant who has several times imported masts for the use of Royal Navy to take some care that Mr. Jahleel Brenton the Surveyor of the Woods in New England do allow Mr. Ichabod Plaisted his deputy one half of the salary appointed to that service.

June 30, 1702.

Min. of Council of the Massachusetts Bay. H.M. declaration of War was published as ordered, the Regiment attending in arms . . . H.E. nominated . . . Ichabod Plaisted . . . for Justices of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas and Justices of the Peace in the County of York.

July 14, 1702, Portsmouth.

Min. of Council of New Hampshire—As to writs for election of certain new members *in loco* of . . . John Plaisted of Portsmouth . . . who are now Members of Council.

July 23, 1702, Portsmouth.

Address of the Governor &c. of New Hampshire to Governor Dudley . . . Praying that dimenstions fixed for trees for masts for the Navy may be altered. . . . Signed . . . JOHN PLAISTED.

Nov. 30, 1702.

Papers received by Council of Trades and Plantations from Governor, Lord Cornbury . . . Relates to the appointment of a successor to the late Earl of Bellomont. . . . Richard Plested.

4 Jan., 1703, Portsmouth.

Min. of Council of New Hampshire. H.E. communicated another letter from Council of Trades & Plantations 12 June 1702. . . . Edward Randolph to give his answer to this Board in writing in 7 days' time . . . "and upon the clause of the memorial of Mr. Wall as relating to Capt. Ichabod Plaisted, that Plaisted attend H.E. thereupon next Council day."

Feb. 11, 1703, Boston.

Governor Dudley to Council of Trades & Plantations . . . Mr. Ichabod Plaisted has also attended me upon the motion of Mr. Wm. Wallis, and I found him a very capable and diligent officer, and what is suggested referring to Mr. Brenton's allowance of the salary, I have written to him being at Road Island. . . .

Apr. 4, 1703.

Governor Dudley to Council of Trades & Plantations. . . . Mr. Brenton has obeyed your Lordships and last week we took a receipt of Mr. Ichabod Plaisted for £25 per annum paid to him to this day for the service about the masts . . . and I believe he is very diligent in the duty of his place.

14 Feb., 1706.

Berwick, in the Province of Maine—Gentlemen concerned in providing masts to the Council of Trades & Plantations. Notwithstanding the heavy warr that is upon us by the French and Indians . . . the Indians in all the parts near us are beaten and burnt out of their posts, and uance of the good government of the present Governor. . . . Signed, ICHABOD PLAISTED. . . .

1706, Oct. 21, Portsmouth.

Mr. Plaisted to the Council of Trades & Plantations—The service has gone on successfully this year as in any other times,

the warr notwithstanding, which is to be attributed to the care of Governor Dudley, who by his intelligence of the enemy, and exact knowledge of the country has always met and defeated their incursions &c., Signed ICHABOD PLAISTED.

Jan. 5, 1707, Boston.

Mr. Bridger to Committee of Trades & Plantations. . . . "I have ordered 3 persons Richard Waldron, Iccabod Plaisted, and Robert Coffin to take care of the logging, for they (Indians) cut all down whatever they come for boards."

1707, May 26.

List of Councillors of New Hampshire. Among them, John Plaisthead.

1707/8, Feb. 16.

Governor Dudley, to Committee of Trades & Plantations Reporting on various matters connected with the Fleet "since the arrival of the mast Fleet I was advised by Mr. Mico and Mr. John Plaisted, merchants and inhabitants of the best value, that they were correspondents to Mr. Francis Collins, merchant of London, and that Mr. Collins had contracted with the Navy Board for certain masts to be cut for use in these provinces." The Governor disputed their right to contract, and adds "I humbly assure your Lordships that no one stick of that timber shall be shipt or transported till H.M. Pleasure be known, and if Mico and Plaisted are found breachers in the matter, they are men of estates very capable to answer to any process H.M. shall direct to be taken against them."

Mar. 9, 1708.

Mr. Bridger to the Council of Trades & Plantations—"Since my last there has been great distruction made in H.M. Woods chiefly by Mr. John Plaisted of New Hampshire, Councillor, Judge, and Justice. . . . They loaded two large masts also for which they had no contract. These were old masts cut many years before by Plaisted and sold by the bond, &c. Not long after Mr. Plaisted tells me he would cutt great masts. I repeatedly forbid him but he persisted, and sett his workmen into the woods to cut the biggest masts the land would produce. I wrote to the Governor, who at length put out proclamation. . . . But Plaisted said there was no law. I toke a guard into the woods and tried to stop him, but the more I spoke the more he cutt, upheld by John Mico, and produced a licence from Queen Mary in 1691. I then toke up the workmen, bound them over to appear the next Court . . . (About the trial of the men). . . . If this insolence be suffered H.M. interests must fall, the damage done by Plaisted is not to be valued for he has set that door open

which never was before, yett his employer Mico, when I told him of his falling great masts, said he would defend him. . . . Finding nothing would stop Plaisted's proceedings I at length obtained from the Governor warrants to seize all masts. . . . Plaisted sett so many people to fall masts that he could not give any account of the number he had fallen. . . ." (The communications encloses various statements by John Plaisted, not given *in extenso*.)

July 6, 1708.

Mr. Bridger to Council of Trades & Plantations—"I have found some masts in the woods cutt by Mr. John Plaisted's order, which hath layne there 6 months, and had been lost, had I not found them, for they must be hewn, squared, &c. else the worme get into them and spoyle the masts, and this is the practice of Plaisted; he sett men to cutt those masts in the winter, and those men has not heard from him since, and soe he has done in many places."

July 29, 1708.

Address from the Justices, Officers of the Militia, merchants &c. of New Hampshire to His Majesty. A memorial in favour of Governor Dudley . . . Ichabod Plaisted's name appears among signatories.

July 7, 1708, Whitehall.

Council of Trades & Plantations to Mr. Bridger—" . . . your chief complaint is against Mr. Plaisted for cutting of masts (notwithstanding his being forbid by you) contrary to the clause of reservation in the charter and in the forementioned Act of Parliament) without having the licence of H.M. for the same, which is absolutely necessary, though a contract be made with the Navy Board, he ought therefore to be prosecuted for so doing."

1709.

List of Council of Mass. Bay—Ichabod Plaisted included.

27 Mch., 1709, Boston.

Mr. Bridger to Council of Trades & Plantations, re trial of John Plaisted. "Although I proved by 3 witnesses the cutting of 6 large mast trees by Mr. Plaisted, yet was cast, the jury being all as guilty as he was, and therefore I was cast and for ever shall be, till an Act be passed in great Britain for the preserving of H.M. Woods. Mr. Plaisted has this winter cut many masts above his contract." Prays for orders.

Apl. 12, Portsmouth.

Mr. Plaisted to Council of Trades & Plantations. "The present warr with the French and Indians from Port Royall doth

very affect these Provinces, and the more neutrality with them her enemies, while wee are dayly subject to their barbarous insults, and were it not for the extraordinary care of our Governor, Col. Dudley, and his particular regard for H.M. Service herein by sending out scouts into the woods, and a sufficient force to cover my workmen and repell the enemy, I could never make that provision for ye yearly loading of the ships which I have done this 13 or 14 years.—Sd. ICHABOD PLAISTED.

Aug. 24, 1713, Boston.

Governor Dudley to Earl of Dartmouth.—Ichobud Plaisted signs an enclosure as Councillor of Mass., and John Plaisted as Councillor for New Hampshire.

(Calendar ends this year)



From "Chicago Sunday Tribune," 21st November, 1937.

THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS OF NEW ENGLAND

EXTRACTS FROM JOURNAL OF COMMISSIONERS FOR TRADE

17 *Apl.*, 1709.

Col. Dudley to the Board—Encloses a letter from Mr. Plaisted touching the difficulty he meets with in cutting of timber for masts in New England by reason of the neutrality held at New York with the enemy.

21 *Oct.*, 1706.

A letter from Mr. Plaisted relating to his good success in preparing masts this year through the care of Lord Dudley.

1718.

Copy of an affidavit of Samuel Plaisted relating to Mr. Elisha Cooke's declaration about the rights to the woods in the province of Maine.

1723.

A memorial from Mr. Newman, agent for New Hampshire recommending Colonel Plaisted and Mr. Frost to be of the Council of that Province.

1723.

The appointment of Mr. John Plaisted as Councillor of New Hampshire approved.

20 *June*, 1723.

Order of the Lord Justices in Council for appointing Col. Plaisted member of Council in New Hampshire.

1723/4.

Colonel Plaisted refuses to act.

(Last Vol., 1724)

CALENDAR OF STATE PAPERS: TREASURY BOOKS

9 *Sep.*, 1699.

Lord Bellomont to Lords of Treasury. About Ichabod Plaisted as on page 187.

10 *Mch.*, 1707/8.

J. Bridger to the Lord High Treasurer about John Plaisted cutting masts above the dimensions allowed.

3 *May*, 1726.

Petition of Thomas Plaisted of London, merchant, to Lords of Treasury. Petitioner was charged with running 1,000 lbs. of snuff, and gave bond for payment of £200 amount of duty. Prays that the bond may be given up on payment for £33 6s. 8d. and for a *nolle prosequi* to be entered. Also a scheme to prevent running of snuff submitted.

1729.

David Dunbar to John Scrope—"The havoc made in the woods before we came is beyond imagination. We have many enemies, but they are generally amongst that set who hold our authority in contempt as they would the Sacred Majesty from whom it is derived, among whom none are more active than one Plaisted and the famous Doctor Cook. These have industriously insinuated to the people of Maine that the King has no property in that Province. However, your brother has proceeded in his duty without regard to these incendiaries, and only wants a fit opportunity to seize their logs at their own mills and bring them to trial."

Before Dec. 29, 1735.

Petition to the Governor of Mass. Bay &c. from Thomas Plaisted, merchant, late of London, now of Boston New England, asking for the encouragement of the manufacture of pott-ash for soap.

EXTRACTS FROM HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL RECORDS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ROGER PLAISTED, OF KITTERY

Tradition says he came from Boston to Kittery, that part now Berwick, about 1654. He witnessed a deed there Feb. 20, 1654. "Joseph Angier at present in Kittery, Oct. 15, 1655, promised to pay Roger Plaisted £42 before September, 1656." He was an Associate from 1664 up to his death. Representative to the General Court 1663 and three years after.

Roger Playsted made complaint of great injury done him by the "Rode Ylanders," who through misinformation of His Majesty's Commissioners have gotten possession of his lands at Newichawannock and many of his cattle which they still detain from him to his great prejudice.

On July 16, 1669, after the Province of Massachusetts Bay had concluded to annex the Province of Maine, commissioners were sent to York County who called upon the "Associates" to take the oath of allegiance to Massachusetts. Mr. Plaisted, an Associate from Kittery, said that he was sent by his town to meet the commissioners and he wanted to know "by what right the government of Massachusetts Bay claimed to govern Maine and were they to submit to it, that he might render himself faithful to those that sent him."

April 18, 1671, he and his wife Olive sold George and John Broughton three acres of land on Salmon Falls river, near Salmon Falls, for eight thousand feet of pine boards. The deed was witnessed by James Plaisted.

Oct. 16, 1675, the Indians attacked Kittery, when Roger and his eldest son were killed and another son badly wounded and died soon after.

Articles of agreement Sept. 16, 1682, between Olive Wincoll, William Plaisted, James Plaisted, John Plaisted, Elisha Plaisted, Ichabod Plaisted, Elisabeth Plaisted and Mehetabel Plaisted, concerning the estate left unto them by the late Mr. Roger Plaisted of Kittery, deceased husband to said Olive and father to the said Plaisteds, which estate lies part of it in the Province of Maine and the rest in the Colony of Connecticut.

December 2, 1696, John Plaisted of Portsmouth, sold Benoni

Hodsdon of the Province of Maine, land in Kittery which was granted by the town to John Wincoll, Dec. 16, 1652, and run out Dec. 16, 1654, which tract was sold to my honored father, Roger Plaisted, July 13, 1660, and by myself purchased of my sister, Elizabeth Plaisted, July 6, 1693; also land granted to my father by the town of Kittery, Dec. 13, 1669. Children:—

1. Roger, Jr. of Kittery; m. Hannah Furber, 1669. He was killed by the Indians, Oct. 16, 1675.

Children:

1. Frances, m. Daniel³ Simpson of York. He d. Oct. 5, 1747; she d. Oct. 11, 1747; nine children.
2. Lieut. Roger Plaisted in Berwick, 1719–36. Appraiser of estate of Timothy Wentworth, 7 July 1719. Whose son was he? of Roger, Jr., Elisha or William?
2. William², next oldest to Roger². In a letter written by Joshua Moody printed in *Mass. His. Soc. Col.* series 4, vol. viii, page 362, it is shown that he had been married four or five years before Sept. 2, 1683, when his wife gave birth to her first child at Kittery.
3. James —, of Kittery.
4. John —, of Portsmouth.
5. Elisha —, of Portsmouth, N.H. Mariner. He married Elisabeth Harvey. He d. in 1690. His will Oct. 26, proved Dec. 6, 1690, was probated in Boston, appoints wife, Elisabeth, executrix, gives her 100 acres of land in Newichawannock, in Piscataqua river, one horse, one cow, part of the ship "Friends," debenture, 200 gals. of rum, 200 weight of cotton wool, lot of molasses, a parcel of joiner's tools, all of which being on board said ship, also what wages may be due to me on account of this voyage from Barbadoes this first of October 1690, with what buildings and household goods which may belong to me, wearing clothes to be equally distributed among "Brethren." Mrs. Plaisted, executrix, sold John Plaisted Sen., merchant of Portsmouth, land in Kittery for £40, July 17, 1693.
6. Ichabod —, of Portsmouth.
7. Elisabeth —.
8. Mehetabel —, m. Thomas Goodwin before 1690, when she was captured by the Indians at Berwick 18th March and carried to Canada and kept a prisoner until Oct. 1695. Children:
 1. Thomas Goodwin, Jr., b. 29 May 1697; m. Hannah Wells.
 2. Ichabod Goodwin, b. 1 June 1700. (His grandson, Dr. James S. Goodwin, d. in Portland about 1885.) Numerous descendants.

James² Plaisted, son of Roger, Senior, settled in York. He married first Lydia, daughter of Richard and Lucretia (Williams) Hitchcock of Saco. She died 1689-90. He married second Mrs. Mary Hull, widow of Phineas Hull and daughter of Edward and Susannah Rishworth, 1695. She was born in York, Jan. 8, 1660. James Plaisted was Town Clerk of York in 1699, and he recorded the names of his children and of his wife's children by Sayward previous to that date.

1. Mary Sayward, b. April 4, 1681.
2. Susannah or Sarah Sayward, b. May 9, 1683.
3. Esther Sayward, b. March 7, 1685.
4. Hannah Sayward, b. June 21, 1687.
5. John Sayward, b. Jan. 2, 1690.
6. Lydia Plaisted, b. Jan. 4, 1696.
7. Olive Plaisted, b. May 1, 1698. She m. first Samuel Jordan of Biddeford, 1718. He d. 1743; and she m. second Rev. Thomas Smith of Portland, Jan. 3, 1744. She d. Jan. 3, 1763. Her son Samuel Jordan, Jr., b. 1729; graduated Harvard College 1750, was the father of Meletiah Jordan one of the first settlers in Ellsworth, who was grandfather of Chief Justice John A. Peters of Bangor.
8. Joseph Plaisted, was b. about 1700. He lived in York. He m. Mary, daughter of Abraham Preble, Jr. He d. prior to 1753. In the widow's will Nov. 10, 1752, proved May 15, 1753. She gives her son John her thirds of estate of her late husband Joseph Plaisted of York. Children :
 1. John —, named in her will.
 2. Sarah —, married — Swett.
 3. Joseph, perhaps, " Joseph Plaisted " was published to Mary Craige both of York, July 23, 1724.

John³ Plaisted of Roger¹ Plaisted, Sen., settled in Portsmouth, N.H., about 1679. He was member of Assembly, 1693 to 1727; Speaker 1696-1717-1727; Chief Justice Supreme Court of N.H., 1719; member of Royal Commissioners 1702 to 1716, and Deputy Survey of the King's Woods. He was a most distinguished man. He married Mary, daughter of John and Mary (Stanyan) Pickering of Portsmouth.

John Pickering in his will names son-in-law John Plaisted and grandsons Elisha and James Plaisted. Children probably not in order :

1. John Jr., b. Jan. 2, 1692; m. Jane Pemberton of Boston, Oct. 15, 1707; the daughter of Thomas, b. 18 March, 1686. He d. Oct. 12, 1712, aged 29. Gravestone in Portsmouth.

2. Joshua, b. 20 Sept. 1685.
3. Mary, b. 29 March 1687; m. Capt. Thomas Phipps. Did he graduate Harvard College?
4. Elisha — of Berwick and Scarboro.
5. James — of Berwick, probably m. Sarah, daughter of Rev. Jeremiah Wise of that town. Mr. Wise in his will, Jan. 17, 1756, gives daughter Sarah Plaisted £150. Mrs. Wise in her will, Nov. 1, 1747-8, names daughter, Sarah Plaisted, son-in-law, James Plaisted, granddaughter Abigail Plaisted. "Dame Sarah Plaisted petitioned the N.H. Assembly, Aug. 30, 1731, as administratrix of estate of Rev. Mr. Nath. Rogers."
6. Mehetable —, m. Capt. Timothy Gerrish, his first wife, John Pickering in his will, June 21, 1721, names granddaughter Mehetable, then deceased, and her son then living with his grandfather Plaisted.

Ichabod² Plaisted of Roger Plaisted, Sen., born 1663, of Portsmouth prior to 1700, when he moved to Berwick.

The Council of New Hampshire met at Portsmouth, Oct. 15, 1697, and voted to send Capt. Ichabod Plaisted to New York "to congratulate the arrival of my Lord Bellamont," a duty which he performed and was paid for. He was a Councillor of the province of Maine some years; several years Judge of Court of Common Pleas. Williamson's History says: "No other name of his time in the province of Maine was more distinguished in military matters and the service of the Province."

He married Mary, youngest daughter of Christopher Jose of Portsmouth, Jan. 5, 1692-3. He died Nov. 16, 1715, in his fifty-second year. His widow is said to have married a Mr. Brown of Salem, Mass. Children:

1. Samuel, b. 10 June, 1696; grad. Harvard College 1715; d. March 20, 1731, aged 36. Gravestone was at Berwick. He m. Hannah Wentworth, Aug. 4, 1717. She m. 2nd. Theodore Atkinson, Sept. 4 1732.
2. Col. Ichabod, b. 21 July, 1700; m. Sarah Brown, 1720. He d. at Salem, Mass, 9 Dec., 1762, and "was buried under arms."
 1. Mary⁴, b. Salem; baptised 28 Dec., 1721; m. Joshua Sherburne.
 2. Ichabod⁴, baptised 10 March, 1728; m. Eunice, of Benjamin Brown of Salem. They had children, Ichabod⁵; baptised, Salem, June 29, 1752, and Benjamin Brown⁵ baptised do., May 19, 1754.
 3. Sarah, b. Salem, 5th July, 1723.
3. Mary, b. 6 Oct., 1702; she d. March 8, 1746.
4. Olive, b. 29 Aug., 1708; m. Ellis Huske.

Elisha³ Plaisted of John² of Roger¹, of Kittery and Berwick. He married Hannah, daughter of Col. John and Mary Wheelwright of Wells, 16 September, 1712. She born May 1, 1694. The next day after his marriage he was taken prisoner by the Indians in an attack on the town of Wells. In a few days he was redeemed by his father on payment of a large ransom said to have been £300. He was Representative to General Court from Kittery 1714. He lived in that part of Kittery which was set off and incorporated as Berwick, where he was one of the first Selectmen, 22 March, 1715. Children :

1. John, b. May 6, 1714.
2. Joshua, b. Sept. 4, 1715. Soldier in Berwick, 1740.
3. Elisha, b. April 28, 1717.
4. Mary, b. Dec. 21, 1718. Married Elisha Hill of Berwick, Dec. 16, 1736.
5. James, baptised July 10, 1720.
6. Mehetable, Oct. 10, 1723.
7. Hannah, b. May 30, 1725. She m. first James Scammon of Saco, 1740. He d. 1753, aged 32. She m. second Mayor Ebenezer Ayer from Haverhill in Saco, July 4, 1754. He accompanied Arnold in his expedition to Canada. It is said that he had the courage to saw off the pickets of an English fort to enable the party to scale the walls. He afterwards served in the Engineer Department of the army, and did not return to Saco until the close of the Revolutionary War. Town Treasurer, 1762 to 1771. Children :

1. James Scammon, Jr., b. 1740. He was Colonel of a Regiment in the Revolutionary War, at Cambridge in 1785. He d. Oct. 21, 1804.
2. Hannah Scammon, b. 1743. Married Thomas Donnell, Jr.
3. Nathaniel Scammon b. July 14, 1746. Did he marry Sarah, daughter of Col. Jonathan Jordan, 1775? He d. July 29, 1820.
4. Elizabeth Scammon, baptised Feb. 22, 1745-9. m. her cousin, Dea. John Hill of Berwick.
5. Mary Scammon, baptised Nov. 19, 1752; m. first Seth Mitchell, April 4, 1770.
6. Elisha Ayer baptised or b. May 18, 1755.
7. Moses Ayer baptised or b. July 7, 1757.
8. John Ayer baptised or b. Feb. 25, 1759.
9. ———, son m. Mary Libby of Scarborough, Sept. 13, 1786.
10. Abigail Ayer b. Nov. 4, 1768; m. Simon Moulton.
11. Polly Ayer, b. March 23, 1772; m. Ebenezer Moulton. Moved to Waterford.

8. Samuel, b. June 25, 1727; m. Mrs. Elizabeth Libby of Scarborough, Feb. 25, 1753. Children from Scarborough Records.
 1. Hannah, b. June 20, 1754; m. John Damon, Feb. 17, 1779 (?).
 2. Elisha, b. Nov. 20, 1755.
 3. Esther, b. Sept. 9, 1757.
 4. John, b. July 1, 1759.
 5. Sarah, b. Mar. 1, 1778 (?).
 6. Mary, b. Jan. 3, 1779 (?).
9. William, b. Mar. 15, 1729; m. Jane Hight, April 8, 1752. She b. Nov. 10, 1735. She married second, Ebenezer Lord in 1774, and d. Apr. 10, 1822. He lived in Berwick. Children :
 1. John, b. Berwick, May 25, 1753.
 2. William, b. Oct., 1755.
 3. Elisha, b. Dec. 25, 1758.
 4. George b. Mar. 1, 1760.
 5. Ichabod b. Oct. 2, 1763; married first Charity Church, 1793. She d. Oct. 1804, he m. second Elizabeth Leighton. He settled in Pittston, 1783. He d. March 11, 1836. Descendants numerous.
 6. Samuel b. Feb. 16, 1766. He m. Elisabeth Hart, 1787. She d. Mar. 1, 1831, aged 65. He d. Jan. 28, 1841. He had ten children born in Jefferson, among whom was William, Sen., b. April 16, 1792, father of ex-Governor Harris M. Plaisted of Maine.
 7. Elisabeth b. July 27, 1767. She m. John Hooper, brother of Elder Thomas Hooper, first minister of Paris, Me. She d. in South Berwick, Nov. 11, 1801.
10. Elisabeth, b. Dec. 26, 1731; m. Nicholas Shapleigh.

SACO VALLEY SETTLEMENT

Col. John Plaisted was for 20 years associate and chief justice of New Hampshire.

Elisha Plaisted, from Berwick, was an early proprietor of Scarborough, and gave his son Samuel a farm at Winnocks Neck, where with his wife Elizth. Libby, he settled and remained till old age. After the death of his wife he went to Lennington and died there in the family of Joseph Moody whose wife was his daughter. He had a family of 12 children as follows :—

1. Hannah, b. 6 June 1754, m. 17 Feb. 1779 John Damon of Kittery.

2. Elisha, b. 20 Nov. 1755.
3. Esther, b. 9 Sept. 1757.
4. John, bap. 1 July 1759, m. Lydia Moulton and settled in Standish.
5. Samuel, bap. 24 May 1762, m. Hannah Cilley of Saco and settled in Gorham, Me.
6. Andrew, b. 1 June 1763, m. Molly Libby of Scarboro' 13 Sept. 1786, and settled in Gorham where children and descendants were born :—
 1. Betsy, b. 20 Dec. 1787, m. Stephen Cram.
 2. Sally, b. 1 July 1788, m. Wm. Thomes.
 3. Joseph, b. 9 May 1799, m. Eunice Thomes, sister of Col. Amos Thomes of Harrison, and settled on an eminence in the South part of that town, afterwards known as "Plaisted's Hill." He had Harriet C., b. 12 Oct. 1823, m. Jonathan Fogg 8 Dec. 1844; Eliza, b. 22 Oct. 1825, m. Edw. Hall; Sumner S., b. 10 Mch. 1831, supposed to have been murdered.
 4. Andrew, b. 18 Sept. 1792, m. Eliza True.
 5. Mary, b. 30 Oct. 1795, m. (1) John Phinney, (2) Oliver Arthurton.
 6. Major, b. 17 Mch. 1798, m. Mary G. Libby, and settled on the homestead in Gorham, where he was living in 1882. Six Children :—
 - (a) John, b. 14 July 1850, shoe dealer, Manchester, N.H.
 - (b) Helen A., b. 11 Sept. 1852, m. Herman S. Whitney.
 - (c) Louisa M., b. 27 Aug. 1854, m. Granville Clement.
 - (d) George P., b. 25 Apl. 1857.
 - (e) Edward P., b. 22 May 1860.
 - (f) Alice B., b. 30 May 1870.
 7. Hannah, b. 10 Apl. 1803 (2nd wife of Wm. Thomes, Gorham, Me.).
 8. Harriet, d. aged 4.
7. Elizabeth, m. Joseph Moody of Limington, Me., 10 July 1783.
8. Simon, m. Harriet Small, settled in Limington, and had issue :—
 1. John, b. 1 Jan. 1809.
 2. Simon, b. 22 Apl. 1811.
 3. Benjamin, b. 6 Mch. 1814.
 4. Mary, b. 14 Oct. 1816.
9. William, m. Hannah Dyer in 1805, and lived in Portland.
10. Abigail, m. Simon Moulton of Standish.
11. Sarah, d. unmarried.

12. Mary, m. (1) Eben Moulton of Waterford ; (2) Josiah Willard of that town.

Roger Plaisted was an early settler of Buxton, was a soldier in the Revolution. Some say he was in the Navy. He died 9 Oct. 1848 ; wife Dorcas died 4 Nov. 1827. He is said to have been at Boston to attend a reunion of soldiers of the Revolution, when rising 90 years of age, where he made a short speech. Children born in Buxton as follows :—

1. Olive, 3 Sept. 1775, m. Robt. P. Marr of Scarborough 11 May 1797.
2. Simon, 28 May 1777.
3. Dorcas, 17 July 1779.
4. Elizth. 10 Dec. 1781, d. 22 June 1784.
5. Mary, 15 Feb. 1784.
6. Elizth. b., 24 Mch. 1786, m. Amos Mason 9 Apl. 1807.
7. Joseph, 21 Oct. 1788.
8. Jane b., 29 Mch. 1791.
9. Roger, 28 May 1793.
10. Isabella b., 22 Aug. 1795.
11. Mellen, 26 Mch. 1798.
12. Jonathan b., 22 Mch. 1799.
13. Samuel, 22 Nov. 1800.

John Plaisted of Biddeford and wife Hannah had issue born there named as follows :—

1. Betsy, 4 Dec. 1793.
2. Alexander, 28 Apl. 1795.
3. Hannah, 18 July 1797.
4. Margery, 21 Oct. 1801.
5. Molly, 25 Jan. 1804.
6. Olive, 7 Feb. 1806.
7. John, 9 Feb. 1808.
8. Matilda, 9 June 1810.

William & Charity Plaisted had born in Biddeford children as follows :—

1. John T., 15 Sept. 1816.
2. Geo. C., 14 Aug. 1819.
3. William, 7 Jan. 1824.

General Harris M. Plaisted son of William & Nancy (Merrill) Plaisted and 7th in descent from Capt. Roger, was born in Jefferson, N. H., 2nd Nov. 1828. He has filled many official positions, a brave soldier in the Civil War, and member of Congress and a Governor of Maine, an able lawyer and eloquent orator. He married 21 Sept. 1858 Sarah J. Mason of Waterville, Me., and by her had 3 sons. Mrs Plaisted died 25 Oct. 1875, and

he married 27 Sept. 1881 Mabel True of Exeter, by whom one child. Issue :—

1. Harold M., grad. of Maine State College in 1881. Stevens Institute Technology 1882 ; now solicitor of patents at S. Louis.
2. Frederic W., graduate of St. Johnsburg Acad., and since 1885 Editor of *New Age*.
3. Ralph P., member senior class at Bowdoin.
4. Gertrude H., at home.

RECORDS OF THE FIRST CHURCH OF BERWICK, MAINE

Names of Founders (17 in all), Ichabod Plaisted, 23 May 1703.

Two silver Cupps, a Table Cloth and Napkins were given to the Church to furnish the Communion Table by Capt. Ichabod Plaisted.

- | | | |
|-------------|-----|--|
| 1715, Sept. | 4. | John, son of Elisha & Hannah Plaisted bapt. |
| 1715, Nov. | 4. | Elisha Plaisted & Hannah his wife were read
[sic—? recd.] at the same time. |
| 1717, Dec. | 21. | Mary, the d. of Capt. Elisha Plaisted was bapt. |
| 1720, July | 10. | James, the s. of Capt. Elisha Plaisted was bapt. |
| 1723, Nov. | 21. | Mahetable, d. of Capt. Elisha Plaisted was bapt. |
| 1725, May | 30. | Hannah, d. of Capt. Elisha Plaisted was bapt. |
| 1727, June | 25. | Samuel, s. of Capt. Elisha Plaisted was bapt. |
| 1729, Mar. | 15. | William, s. of Capt. Elisha Plaisted was bapt. |
| 1731, Dec. | 26. | Elizabeth, d. of Capt. Elisha Plaisted was bapt. |
| 1734, Feb. | 25. | Voted that Elisha Plaisted (& others) be Assessers. |
| 1741, Nov. | 22. | . . . James Plaisted . . . were recd. into the Church. |
| 1742, April | 18. | Cuff Capt. Plaisted's Negro owned the Covt. & was bapt. |
| 1743, July | 3. | Cuff also Capt. Plaisted's negro bapt. previously. |
| 1744, Jan. | 29. | Cuff Elisha Plaisted's Negro was suspended from the Communion of ye Church . . . |
| 1745, Aug. | 25. | Shipway s. of James & Sarah Plaisted bapt. |
| 1745, April | 4. | Voted that Capt. Plaisted's Negro Cuff who notified his repentance to the Church's satisfaction . . . be restored to the fellowship of the Church. |
| 1747, Aug. | 9. | Hannah, d. of James Plaisted bapt. |
| 1749, July | 26. | Mary d. of Sarah Plaisted bapt. owned the Covt. |
| 1750, Oct. | 28. | Sarah d. of James Plaisted bapt. |
| 1753, June | 24. | Mary, d. of James Plaisted bapt. |
| 1755, Sept. | 5. | William s. of Wm. Plaisted bapt. |
| 1758, May | 14. | Hannah d. to James & Sarah Plaisted bapt. |
| 1761, Mch. | 8. | Geo. Walton, s. to Wm. & Jane Plaisted bapt. |

- 1763, Oct. 16. Ichabod, s. to Wm. and Jane Plaisted bapt.
 1748, April 7. Nicholas Shapleigh married Elizabeth Plaisted.
 Fee £3.
 1752, April 4. Wm. Plaisted married Jane Hight. Fee £2 5.

RECORDS OF 2ND CHURCH, BERWICK, MAINE

- 1775, Nov. 29. John Plaisted with Martha Lord both of Berwick.

REGISTERS OF SOUTH CHURCH, PORTSMOUTH

- 1775, May 20. Roger Plaster married Dorcas Mellon.

MARRIAGES OF REV. THOS. FOXCROFT, A.M., BOSTON, 1717-69

- 1747, Jan. 5. Othniel Tarr of Marblehead and Sarah Plaisted of Boston.

REGISTERS OF ST. GEORGE, NEVIS, W.I.

- 1723, Dec. 24. Francis Plaisted, mariner, married Hester Stanton, sp.

REGISTERS OF NEWINGTON, N.H.

- 1842, April 16. Elisha Plaisted, 56, of Portsmouth, died.
 1845, Jan. 2. At Searmont, Me., Miss Elizabeth Plaisted of Portsmouth, d. of the late Elisha Plaisted, aged 17, died.
 1845, April 28. In Portsmouth, Tobias Ham Miller married Mrs. Hannah H. Plaisted.
 1850, Feb. 10. Wd. Olive Plaisted, wife of the late Geo. Plaisted of Portsmouth, aged 85 died.

MASTER TATE'S DIARY OF SOMERSWORTH, N.H.

Names of Families and Children in Somersworth, Mar. 26, 1767 :—

Mr. Wm. Plaisteads who married Judith Ricker.
 Hannah, born Mar. 14.
 William
 Olive
 Samuel

Mr. Wm. Plaisted's Junr. who married Mrs. Anne Ford on Tuesday Night August, 1st 1769.

Danile Plaisted born on Oct. 18th, 1770.

Naomi Born Thursday Night Sept., 26th, 1771.

Mrs. Hannah Plaisted Pr. Amos Ricker A Girl named Sarah Ricker Dec., 24th 1768.

Tuesday Night Aug ye 1st 1769 Mr. Wm. Plaistead Junr. of Somersworth Married to Anne Ford Daughter of Mr. Jno. Ford of Berwick. . . .

1770, Sept., 27. Mr. Ezra Hacket of Canterbury Married to Mrs. Hannah Plaisted of Somersworth.

Thursday Night Sept. 26th 1771 Wm. Plaistead Junrs. wife Deliv'd of a Daughter, named Naomi.

Thursday Dec., 3rd 1772 Thanksgiving in Both Provinces my house was Broken open & my Chest Broken open & Stole out of my Chest 3 pints of rum Thieves W. Plaistead & Miles Ford.

Wm. Plaistead Junrs. Child Dy'd on October — 1773 Born & Buried on Thursday Oct. 14th 1773.

Wed. Feb., 21st 1774. Mr. Wm. Plaisted & Son Wm. & Families moved from Somersworth for a place called Moultons Gore.

EXTRACTS FROM MAINE WILLS—1640 TO 1760

John Pickering of Portsmouth, 26 June, 1721

. . . First I give and bequeath unto my beloved Daughter Mary, the wife of John Plaisted Esq., as an addition to what I have already given her and her said husband a [long reference to land at Ellens Point] . . . and whereas my son in law John Plaisted has fenced in the south side and west end between or about 30 or 40 foot of land more than I gave him and his wife there being a long account between him and myself yet not settled though I believe I owe him not a penny but rather that he is in my Dett, &c. . . .

I give and bequeath to my Grandson Elisha Plaisted one house Lott on my neck of land &c. . . .

I give and bequeath unto my Grandson James Plaisted One house Lot of ye land ye same Bigness his brother Elisha's is &c. . . .

I give and bequeath unto my Deceased Granddaughter Mehitable Gerrish her Son now living with his Grandfather John Plaisted £5 &c.

. . . I give unto my Daughter Mary Plaisted the wife of John Plaisted £5.

John Wheelwright of Wells, Co. York, Mass., 20th April, 1739

Gives to wife Mary Wheelwright all his personal Estate, stock of Cattle and Creatures of all kinds Negro or Molatto Servants &c. She to pay to my Daughter Hannah Plaisted £31 18s. 2d., which makes up with what she hath already had of me £200 besides what I have laid out for her Apparel and fitting out for Marriage.

Mary Wise of Berwick, Yorks., Mass., 1st March, 1747/8

Wife of Rev. Mr. Jeremiah Wise, Clerk. . . .

Gives to my Granddaughter Abigail Plaisted my two silver Porringers to be delivered upon my decease. . . .

I give to my Grandson Shipway Plaisted £300 in bills of ye old Tenor, or Equivalent thereto in Bills the ye new Tenor.

Mentions a Bond of £100 which is "against Son in law James Plaisted"

Gives to "my daughter Sarah Plaisted my wearing apparel &c. My christening blanket, my two black Truncks, my Silver Salt Seller &c.

Also my Will is that my Negro Slave Rose shall work for her 52 days in a year till her negro Wench is able to do work for her."

Mary Wheelwright of Wells, York, Gentlewoman, 16th Nov., 1750

Gives estate to my three beloved Granddaughters, the Daughters of my dear deceased Hannah Plaisted.

Mary Plaisted, 10th Nov., 1752

The last will and testament of Mary Plaisted Junr. of York in the County of York made this the 10th Day of November Annoq Domini 1752.

As to that part of worldly Estate which I have, I give it all to my beloved Son John Plaisted for his use forever that is to say my interest in the Thirds of the Estate of my late Husband Joseph Plaisted Esq., late of York Deceased. Also my necklace, great looking glass and great table, Papper Box Rings, Also three-quarters of my wearing Apparel, and everything that doth or may belong to me except One Quarter of my wearing Apparel which I give my Daughter Sarah Swett.

Signed &c.

MARY PLAISTED junr. (Seal).

Probated 15th May, 1753. Inventory returned at £19 19s. 10d.

Peter Grand of Berwick, York, Mass., Gent., 1756

My will is that John Key and his heirs my enjoy that part of the little mill, provided he clears me and my heirs from Colonel Ichabod Plaisted and his Heirs, and produce Receipts to that effect otherwise ye sd part of ye sd Mill to be sold to discharge ye sd Debt.

MAINE HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL REGISTER

Descendants of Robert Huckins.—Hannah Huckins, born 20th Aug., 1749, m. at Gilmanton 1781 as his second wife William Plaisted, son of Wm. & Judith Ricker (*Me. Gen.*, Vol. 2, p. 107),

farmer and soldier in the Revolution, of New Hampton, b. Dover (Somersworth) c. 1750. In 1779 he bought 50 acres owned (1910) by Arthur Locke on the easterly slope of Pettee Hill, New Hampton, adjoining lands of his father William Plaisted and brother Samuel. Children born at New Hampton:—

1. Benning Moulton of New Hampton, farmer, b. 21 May 1785, d. 15 April 1860, m. 27 Dec. 1808 Phebe Eaton, d. of Ebenezer & Phebe (Shephard), b. at Candia 10 May 1780, d. 22 March 1869.
2. Hiram of New Hampton, farmer, b. 1787, d. 21 Oct. 1848 (tombstone); m. 23 Nov. 1809 Hannah (Mudgett).
3. William of Centre Harbor, farmer, b. 27 Feb. 1789, d. 18 Dec. 1869, m. 6 Jan. 1813 Nancy Smith, d. of Samuel of New Hampton, b. 30 Nov. 1786, d. 16 April 1869.
4. Nancy, b. 3 July 1790, d. 3 Jan. 1862, m. New Hampton, 26 April 1814 Rev. Walter Sleeper, s. of John & Elizth (Tilton) of Bristol, clergyman, town officer, member of legislature; b. at Bristol 20 Jan. 1790, d. 1 May 1875.

In June 1743 William Plaisted of Somersworth, mariner, bought 13 acres there of Thos. Tibbetts and Olive his wife (*N.H. Deeds*, Vol. 27, p. 478). In June Judith released her right of dower in the same 16 acres where she and her husband "now" live (*Strafford Deeds*, Vol. 1, p. 131). Tate records in his MS (p. 84) that "Wednesday Feb. 21 1774 Mr. Wm. Plaisted & Son Wm. & Families moved from Somersworth for a place called Moultons Gore." In Dec. 1779 he bought 50 acres in the N.E. corner of New Hampton on the east slope of Pettee Hill, adjoining on the South lands of his son William and on the West land of his son Samuel (*Strafford Deeds*, Vol. 4, p. 159). He is probably the William Plaisted who in 1776 was 2nd Lieut. in the Moultonborough Company (*N.H. State pps.*, Vol. 12, p. 8; Vol. 14, p. 296).

Children of William & Judith (Ricker) Plaisted born at Somersworth N.H. (*Tate MS Diary*, p. 15)

Hannah, b. 14 Mar. 1745; William, b. 1750; for whom see below; Olive; Samuel, 1757.

William Plaisted son of William & Judith (Ricker) born about 1750, married first on 1 Aug. 1769 Anne Ford, d. of John who was born probably at Berwick, me (*Tate MS Diary* pp. 43 & 49); he married (2) 29 Nov. 1781 Hannah Huckins, d. of Joseph and Mary (Fernald). By his first wife he had:—

Daniel, b. Somersworth 18 Oct. 1773, died same day.

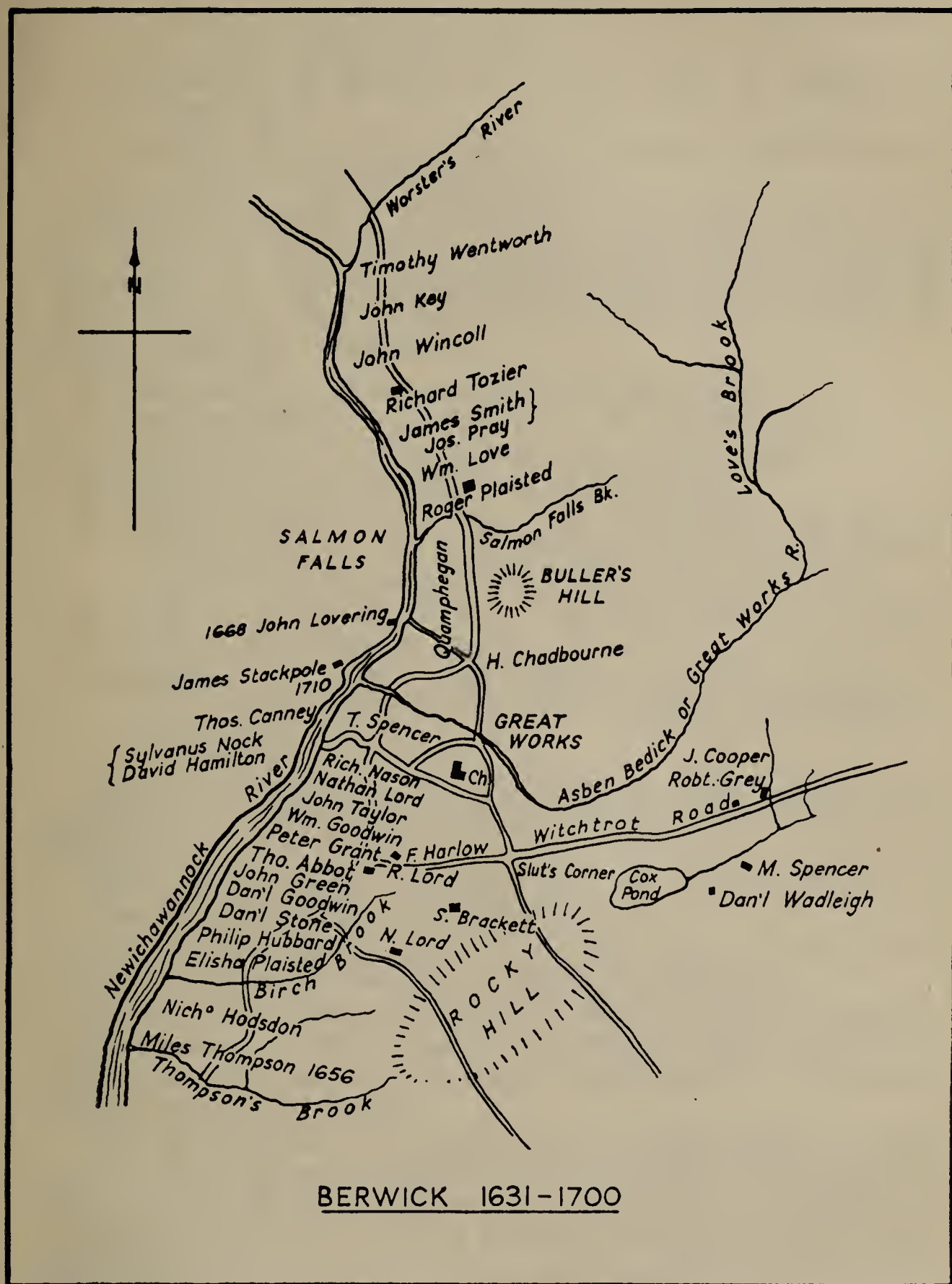
Ford, ? at Moultonborough in 1775, said to have married ——— Ames, and to have removed to Canada or Philadelphia (*ib.* p. 43). For children of William Plaisted by second wife, *vide supra*.

Margery Huckins, b. 5 March, 1759 ; d. 6 March 1838 ; m. at Gilmanton 29 Nov. 1781 Samuel Plaisted, son of William & Judith Ricker of New Hampton, farmer, 1777 ; soldier in the Revolution ; b. Dover (Somersworth) 1757 ; d. 15 Sept. 1833. In 1779 he purchased 50 acres in the N.E. corner of New Hampton, on the E. slope of Pettee Hill at the head of Plaisted Brook, where (1910) Rodney Huckins lives. Children born at New Hampton :—

1. Judith, b. 23 Aug. 1782 ; married 11 Sept. 1803 Bradbury Keniston of New Hampton, Farmer.
2. Stephen of Ashland, farmer ; b. 19 Sept. 1784 ; d. 15 Jan. 1853 ; m. 6 Jan. 1809 Hannah Clark, d. of Jos. & Hannah (Clough).
3. Ricker of New Hampton, farmer ; b. 31 Jan. 1787 ; d. 1869 ; m. (1) 1 Oct. 1806 Eunice Perkins, farmer ; (2) Sarah Smith, widow, 1823 ; (3) 9 June 1867 Eliza Jane Hawkins, wid. of Jacob, b. 1830.
4. Joseph of Monmouth, Me., 1819, and of Phillips, Me., 1825 ; b. 3 March, 1789 ; d. at Lowell, Mass ; m. Lois Kelly, b. at Meredith.
5. Sarah, b. 3 Aug. 1791 ; m. 5 June 1834 Simeon Johnson of Crampton, farmer.
6. Hannah, b. 22 Aug. 1793 ; d. unmarr. 11 Sept. 1843.
7. Samuel of New Hampton, farmer ; b. 24 July 1795 ; d. 10 June 1888 ; m. (1) 22 Jan. 1818 Nancy Huckins ; (2) 4 April 1872 Mary (Carter) Smith.
8. William of New Hampton, N.H., Rangely Me. 1836 and Phillips, Me., 1840, farmer ; b. 30 May 1797 ; d. 17 March 1886 ; m. 18 Jan. 1823 Sarah Tucker.
9. Mary (Polly), b. 8 June 1799 ; d. 2 Sept. 1858 ; m. 9 April 1820 Peter Ames of Holderness, farmer.

Nancy Huckins, b. 14 March 1799 ; m. 22 Jan. 1818 Samuel Plaisted, of Samuel and Margery (Huckins). Children :—

1. Oren C., farmer, b. 19 Nov. 1818 ; d. 18 Nov. 1885 ; married cousin Judith P. Huckins first ; Nancy Rose second.
2. Benaiah, of Meredith, merchant, b. 25 Oct. 1820 ; d. 8 Dec. 1902.
3. Mary Ann, b. 5 Jan. 1823 ; d. 28 July 1894 ; married her cousin Calvin Smith Huckins.
4. Martha, b. 28 Aug. 1825 ; d. 12 Feb. 1904 ; m. 11 Sept. 1846 her cousin Horace Huckins.
5. James H. of Meredith, farmer ; b. 3 Nov. 1828 ; d. 16 Aug. 1908 ; m. 15 April 1849 his cousin Almira S. Huckins.
6. Susan M., born 11 Feb. 1831 ; d. 7 Aug. 1903 ; m. 30 Nov. 1849 her cousin Timothy P. Smith Huckins.



THE SETTLEMENTS ON NEWICHAWANNOCK RIVER

7. Samuel of Ashland, farmer ; b. 29 July 1833, living 1910 ; m. 14 Feb. 1856 his third cousin Phebe Plaisted, d. of Horace Lyman and Sarah H. (Taylor), b. New Hampton 10 Aug. 1836, living 1910.
8. Charles H. of Meredith, b. 26 Jan. 1836 ; d. unmarr. 22 April 1857.
9. Amanda, b. 28 June 1838, living 1910 at Meredith ; m. 14 Jan. 1854 Hiram McCrillis.

Judith P. Huckins, b. 18 July 1827 ; d. 10 Aug. 1867 ; m. 8 Oct. 1844 her cousin Oren C. Plaisted, s. of Samuel and Nancy (Huckins) ; b. New Hampton (family bible in poss. (1910) of Rev. Daniel C. York of Allenton, R.I. surviving husband of Dora J. Plaisted). Children :—

1. Mary Ellen, b. 11 Feb. 1847 ; d. 15 Aug. 1848.
2. Frances Adeline, b. 11 July 1849 ; d. 13 July 1856.
3. Louis Sumner, b. 25 July 1851 ; d. 20 Oct. 1852.
4. Sarah B., b. 13 July 1853 ; d. 25 June 1856.
5. Frank Curtis of New York City, stationary engineer, b. 25 Nov. 1854 ; d. 1 Jan. 1887 ; m. in New York City 24 Sept. 1877 Caroline Virginia Cash, b. N.Y. City 1853.
6. Dora J., b. 2 Sept. 1857 ; d. 25 June 1909 ; m. 27 Jan. 1877 Rev. Daniel C. York.
7. Mary N., b. 10 Sept. 1859, living 1910 at Centre Harbor ; m. 4 March 1876 Geo. R. Blake ; (2) Geo. H. Hawkes, 2 Dec. 1878.

Deborah Huckins, b. 15 June 1824 ; d. 2 Oct. 1870 ; m. Sylvester B. Ames, adopted son of Peter & Mary (Plaisted) of Holderness.

Almira S. Huckins ; b. 28 June 1824 ; d. 21 Sept. 1855 ; m. 15 Nov. 1849 her cousin James H. Plaisted.

Hannah Robertson Huckins, b. 19 Feb. 1789 ; d. ?23 Nov. 1862 ; m. Hiram Plaisted, son of William & Hannah.

Deacon James Huckins of Ashland, 1849, shoemaker, member of Legislature ; b. New Hampton 29 March 1807 ; d. 22 Jan. 1886 ; m. 22 Oct. 1831 third cousin Lois Plaisted, d. of Benning Moulton and Phebe (Eaton).

Cath. B. Huckins, b. 25 April 1841 ; d. 5 May, 1900 ; m. (2) her fourth cousin once removed Henry Fillmore Plaisted, son of Cyrus C. and Elizabeth (Rowe) ; and grandson of Stephen of Thornton, farmer ; b. at New Hampton 22 Sept. 1849 ; d. 20 May 1877.

Calvin Smith Huckins married 25 April 1842 his cousin Mary Ann Plaisted, d. of Samuel & Nancy (Huckins).

Horace Huckins of Centre Harbour, farmer, married 11 Sept. 1846 his cousin Martha G. Plaisted, d. of Samuel & Nancy (Huckins) ; b. New Hampton 28 Aug. 1825 ; d. 12 Feb. 1904.

(*" Notes " of April 1913.*)

PLAISTED OF AUSTRALASIA

PLAISTED OF AUSTRALASIA

WE will not embark upon a graphic description of the romance gathering around the discovery of the Land of the Southern Cross, or enlarge upon the first settlements which were made in Australia, but we will pass without delay to that period which first saw the systematic colonisation of that continent. The imperial development of Australia was begun by William Pitt, afterwards Earl of Chatham, in a fit of absence of mind. There is no evidence that he seriously contemplated creating a Greater Britain in the Antipodes, or he would never have wished to lay the foundation by making it a criminal settlement. The real history of Australia started, however, in the first decades of the nineteenth century, when profitable farming on a large scale opened out to emigrants an attractive field, beyond anything their wildest hopes could ever expect to achieve in the home country. Shipload after shipload of emigrants in the first half of last century started out to seek new homes in a country which proved to have amazing attractions, and when in 1851 gold was discovered in large deposits, tens of thousands poured into the continent from all classes of the mother country, and from almost all the races of the world. The result is that Australia now possesses a population of unexampled energy and endless enterprise.

THOMAS OF DEPTFORD, KENT

Our search for the origin of the family name in Australia led us through sundry vicissitudes to Thomas Plaisted (1775-1860), who settled at Deptford from Newnham-on-Severn, where he appears as the younger brother of John IV of Newnham, who has been noticed elsewhere. It may be that the maltster instinct descended, in a persuasive degree, from Thomas I of Newnham, for we find Thomas IV at

Deptford developing into the same line of business. Plaisted's Wine House still exists in High Street, Woolwich, to perpetuate the family name, but the business for many years has been in other hands. The first marriage of Thomas VI was with Mary Young of Micheldean, Glos, and their two children were Henry (b. 1799) and John (b. 1800).

A few years after the decease of his first wife Thomas married Lydia Wilkes, by whom he had a son Thomas Wilkes (b. 1811), who succeeded to the family business. It has been said that Lydia was a connection of John Wilkes, an Alderman of London, who was committed to the Tower for a seditious article published in his paper *The North Briton*, and who afterwards became Lord Mayor of London, but we failed to discover the missing link which might convert coincidence into fact. Marriage entries of that period give scanty information of the origin of either party, and with the more common names it is difficult to establish identity.

At Plaisted's Wine House we were shown with business pride the "Arms of the Ancient Family of Plaisted," although the manager knew nothing of the family or its descendants. This ingenious elaboration, displayed in the public bar, might interest a seeker after curios, but as a classic achievement the device would sadden the heart of any College of Heralds. It suggests the work of a wandering artist prepared to illustrate any tavern sign from *The Goat in Boots* to *The Star and Garter*, produced at a period when armorial bearings were becoming the new fashion. The design, set in a leafy surround pendent from a Tudor Rose, has an emblazonment which might be thus described:

A shield charged with a fess, between three martlets proper, bearing on an inescutcheon or shield of pretence an imperial (double-headed) eagle.

Crest: In a hand dexter a flag unfurled with two streamers.

Motto: Auxilium ab alto.

We did not observe the colouring to be able to describe the tinctures. The concluding motto has no claim to originality, for it is carried by at least five English families.

The business at Woolwich remained in the possession of the youngest son, Thomas Wilkes Plaisted, until his decease in February, 1886. He followed the example of his father in that he married two wives and outlived them both. He was an able man of affairs, who during his lifetime improved upon what competence he had received, and died in the ripeness of years. In tabular form elsewhere our readers will find the names of his successors. Those particulars may easily be amplified by reference to the surviving relatives, to whom we are indebted for much information we have been able to insert.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND VICTORIA

The principal descendants in Australia to-day trace their parentage to John, the second son of Thomas of Deptford, whose early life was spent in London, and who followed the trade of his father. He met with good success as a dealer in wines and spirits. At the age of 25 years John married Ann, daughter of Charles Green, Notary Public, of Lincoln's Inn, by whom he had five sons and one daughter. We find John about 1837, the year of Queen Victoria's accession, in possession of *The King's Arms and Head*, Bermondsey Street. Ten years later he was in business as a wine and spirit importer at No. 42, Trinity Square, Tower Hill, London, where he traded as Vickers, Plaisted & Co. He retired from the concern towards the middle of the century, we believe from failing health, and went with his family to live at Ford House, Newton Abbot, South Devon, a fine old Jacobean mansion on the Torquay Road, previously in the occupation of Henry Cartwright, M.D., where John and his family remained for a few years.

The Manor of Wolborough, of which Ford House is the capital messuage, had been purchased in the reign of James I by Sir Richard Meynell, whose heiress took it in marriage to Sir William Waller, Parliamentary General. The house afterwards formed part of the dowry of his heiress on her marriage to Sir William Courtenay, an ancestor of the Earl of Devon, the present owner. Charles I was on two occasions (15th and 24th September, 1625) entertained at Ford House by Sir Richard Meynell, who at the first visit received

from the King the honour of knighthood. William Prince of Orange was magnificently lodged and feasted there for two days (7th and 8th November, 1688), when on his way from Brixham to Exeter. It was at that time the home and property of Sir William Courtenay, Bart., who, although a strong Whig, did not choose to be the first to put life and fortune in peril, but cautiously abstained from doing anything which could be treated as a crime if James II should prevail.

Being told by the doctor that he would not survive another year in England, the thoughts of John turned to Australia, where his wife had a married sister. The few experiments in systematic colonisation hitherto made in that continent had not been uniformly successful, and in South Australia had proved rather a failure. Something is therefore to be said for the courage of John in making such a bold venture. But thither he went with his wife and family, accompanied by Abigail Grant, a sister-in-law. They landed in 1851 from the ship *Rajah* at Adelaide, and proceeded to Willunga, where John was minded to take up land, in which he seems to have had little experience. The tide of progress was beginning to rise, for in the 'forties copper had been discovered in the colony, and was attracting a steady flow of immigrants. The sane administration of Sir George Grey was also bearing fruit, after years of utopian colonising theories and wild land speculation, but the even course of life was soon disturbed by fresh developments.

The neighbouring province of Victoria discovered gold in extraordinary quantities, and the great gold fever set in which brought adventurers from the whole world. Squatters left their farms, shepherds their sheep, merchants their desks, sailors their ships, and all engaged alike in the hungry search for gold. The enhanced prosperity of the country after a few years seemed to make Victoria a land of promise. John and his family then crossed over to Melbourne, seven hundred miles distant, by that time just settling down after the garish freedom and lavish gains of the early gold-digging days.

In the city of his adoption John did not prosper in the measure he expected. Maybe he was debarred by ill-

health from the exacting demands of a new country, or he was not mentally fitted for that way of life. He is remembered rather as a man of strong and narrow views, not easily adaptable to a colonial environment. He had experienced heavy losses in South Australia: his business ventures in Melbourne did not improve his financial position; his health gradually failed him; and in 1858 he died from tuberculosis, his old enemy.

Most of the descendants of John remain in the neighbourhood of Melbourne. His only daughter Sally not long after they landed in Australia married Samuel Hughes, who had been in Adelaide about a year before John arrived. We will briefly follow a few of the others to their present surroundings.

WEST AUSTRALIA

Fifty years after the great trek to Melbourne, Harold Thomas and Albert Turner, grandsons of John I of Melbourne, made their way to West Australia, to what was formerly called Swan River Settlement, seeming to perceive there the kind of life they desired. At first they settled in Perth, where Albert found a wife in Martha Esther Hopkins, then proceeded to Goomalling, where Harold met a similar fate and married Florence Bell. Some of their children would be described in Europe as "war babies," for they are still in the years of adolescence. Distance is no longer the barrier that it was thirty years ago. Each summer that passes brings from Australia someone who knows the neighbourhood and often the people of whom we are writing. This happened only a few months ago, when a visitor to Abbey House, Westminster, quite unaware that the writer had ever heard of the place, announced himself as the Rector of Goomalling, West Australia. He was followed not many days afterwards by two visitors from the same neighbourhood who were in England on holiday.

NEW ZEALAND

The restless spirit of the colonial seems to have possessed the soul of John II, the eldest son of John I, for he was attracted by rumours of a brighter future in New Zealand,

where in 1861 great quantities of gold had been discovered in the province of Otago. Other finds were also reported. These developments led to an increase of immigration, the commencement of great public works, and the dawn of an era of commercial prosperity. It is still a country with magnificent possibilities. The two islands have a superb climate, rich stores of mineral wealth, and a soil which feeds millions of sheep as easily as it produces oranges and grapes. John II finally made his home in Christchurch, where he married and brought up a family of three sons and two daughters, one of whom (Mrs. Guinness) is still living in that city. Arthur, the younger brother of John II, who married Mary Ann Kither of Adelaide, departed in later life to Auckland. In that city the younger children of Arthur and Mary still survive.

Another bond with New Zealand was created when Charles and Elizabeth Plaisted, of Littledean, Glos, decided to venture their fortunes with their young family in New Zealand. They left Plymouth in August 1878, in the emigrant ship *Adaspas*, landed at Lyttleton on the 9th November, and took up work on the land. They were among the earlier settlers in the district of Canterbury, where their descendants still remain around Christchurch. Thus we find ourselves represented in both North Island and South Island, and although we are strangers face to face, these words will convey to our distant connections the assurance that the story of the making of New Zealand, and the contribution of their own family towards that great work, is an achievement which will always be remembered.

EPILOGUE

EPILOGUE

THE genealogical descents followed in this volume account for all the principal developments of that branch of the Plaisted family which since the thirteenth century has spread abroad from North Wilts. Much more could be done if time permitted us to elaborate the plain facts and to touch up the pageantry of eight centuries. A good deal might have been written of the more striking personalities encountered in the long procession. Nothing has been said about the domestic or home life of the past, which is one of its engrossing features. What can be gleaned from contemporary records suggests a whole unexplored study in character and motive.

When searching the records of the neighbourhood around Castle Combe fleeting traces of the family were found in the villages of North Wilts, but nothing suggested long-established residence. We have not followed up and put to bed each minor issue which may have flourished awhile in some locality, then is lost in fresh surroundings. Neither have we set down in graphic order the descendants in Cardiff and South Wales who hail from Gloucestershire, nor other scattered members in this country and overseas. All these are the issues of the past sixty years which can be quite simply traced to a major source. In our own time registration has become an exact science. With the knowledge of the date and place of birth it should be easy for any member of the family to work backward over two or three generations, until he meets some point in the published genealogy which connects with his own origin.

Our study of the family has not been confined to the branch that originated in North Wilts. We also followed the Bucks posterity from Quainton, Pollicot, Waddesdon, and Hardwick, down to the nineteenth century: and the

Sussex branch through Ticehurst, Arlington, and Wadhurst, to the point where they merged with those settled in Surrey and Middlesex. A fair number of representatives survive in the Plesteds of Bucks, but from Sussex the name has entirely disappeared. To have included that material in this volume would only have confused the subject, although register transcripts and Tables of Descent relating to those districts exist in manuscript. The marriages of the North Wilts stock have been more richly blessed than those of other areas, which accounts for the fact that their descendants now represent the larger and more sturdy portion of the male succession in all parts of the world.

One feature which attended our investigations has been the remarkable corroboration afforded to our opening hypothesis by the ground we have explored as well as by the records of the Registrar General for England and Wales. We have abstracted all the family marriages for the whole country over about forty years (1837-75) where the form of the name has been preserved as Plaisted, and have reproduced them for the information of our readers. The spellings of illiterate ages varied with that delightful disregard for convention which is the charm of mediæval records. Few better illustrations exist of the subtle changes which family names could produce during the fluid stages of oral transmission than those seen in the steady progression from du Plessis or de Plessitis to de Pleistede or Plaisted. The whole field which has been covered and the descents we have traced prove clearly the three points of our thesis: 1. That the family name never arose casually in disconnected parts of this country; 2. That it is found only in certain limited areas or in known propagations from those areas; and 3. That the evidence of genealogy in all such places travels back in converging lines to Sir John du Plessis, Knight Crusader, 9th Earl of Warwick and Baron du Plessis, member of the first Privy Council of this Realm under the Provisions of Oxford (1258), and his wife Christine de Sandford.

Sir John was a younger son of William, and the grandson of Radulphus du Plessis, a family which in the tenth century was settled in Poitou, on the River Creuse, in

Normandy. The land and dignities pertaining to William, Seigneur du Plessis, are evidence of his wealth and standing. These included the demesne from which the family name was taken, the seigneuries of Breux and Vernolière, with other possessions in Poitou and Touraine. He was one of the nobles attending Henry, Duke of Normandy, son of Henry II of England, on his visit to the King of France. Beyond Radulphus the antecedence is confused through the fact that surnames in that period were not clearly established.

The first of that line was a Companion of Rollo the Norseman, who in the year 876 descended upon the coast of France, captured the city of Rouen, and within thirty years carved out the country which became the Duchy of Normandy. The barons of the province, among whom was the Seigneur du Plessis, owed military service to the Duke by virtue of the estates which they held from him, and each was bound to appear in the field for forty days a year with his quota of knights and men-at-arms. Within the Duchy most of the inhabitants were French peasants who remained on the land. The feudal aristocracy was of Viking origin, traders and fishermen, no less than soldiers and pirates. They combined the pride of the warrior with the enterprise of the merchant. The castle and the market were twin foundations. They adopted the speech, customs, and religion of the French, with the culture and order of Rome. Most of all they developed a passion for building, a method of warfare, and a genius for administration, which were the principal gifts of the Normans to England.

In this hazy mist of long ago may be discerned the genesis of the family, obscured by the passage of time, and uncertain through the lack of precise data. The people of those days left no chronicles which might tell us why they decided to leave their northern homes and seek fresh pastures. Bad harvests or insufficient means of maintenance, a surplus of young warriors thirsting for new ways of life, with the sheer love of exploration and adventure, combined to produce the Viking movement which swept southward and westward from the closing years of the eighth century. Through that wave of invasion came the family which, after a sojourn of more than three hundred years in Normandy, became the

ancestral house of Plaisted of North Wilts. The picture presented by those days is a faintly sketched outline extending backward more than a thousand years to the Viking life of Norse legend, and beyond it many thousand years more of blank silence ; broken only by the note of the hunting horn in the primeval forest, or the lap of the waves upon the storm-swept shores of antiquity.



THE DAWN OF HISTORY

THE FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

THE FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

THE relationship existing between each group of members is made clear by the respective charts. An absence of numerical reference indicates that the name appears on the chart but does not occur in the descriptive matter.

Any mention of other families in this volume, whether in the descriptive matter or on the charts, will be found under the general index at the end of the book. The page numbers do not include all references of secondary importance.

A few minor copying errors in the charts, which a close reading will reveal, will be amended in any subsequent edition.

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Table I. The Barony of Castle Combe, 1100-1350

This chart indicates the line by which the Barony descended after Domesday, and shows the connection between the Dunstanville and Basset families, to the point where the lands of John Basset of Combe were divided between his three daughters.

Table II. The Family du Plessis, de Plesid, de Placetis, or de Pleistede, 1180-1540

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- Beatrice, 15, 30
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Stephen (*fl.* 1396), land owned
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SOMERSET :

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 - Agnes (*fl.* 1420), *m.* 1st,
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- Alicia (c. 1295-1314)
- Arms of Berks and Wilts
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- Henry (1275-1349)
- Joan (c. 1450)
- John (*fl.* 1320-90), land owned
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- John (1430-90), account of,
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- John (c. 1524) of North Wrax-
all
- Matilda (c. 1340)
- Nicholas (c. 1333) of Yatton
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- Nicholas (1350-1415)
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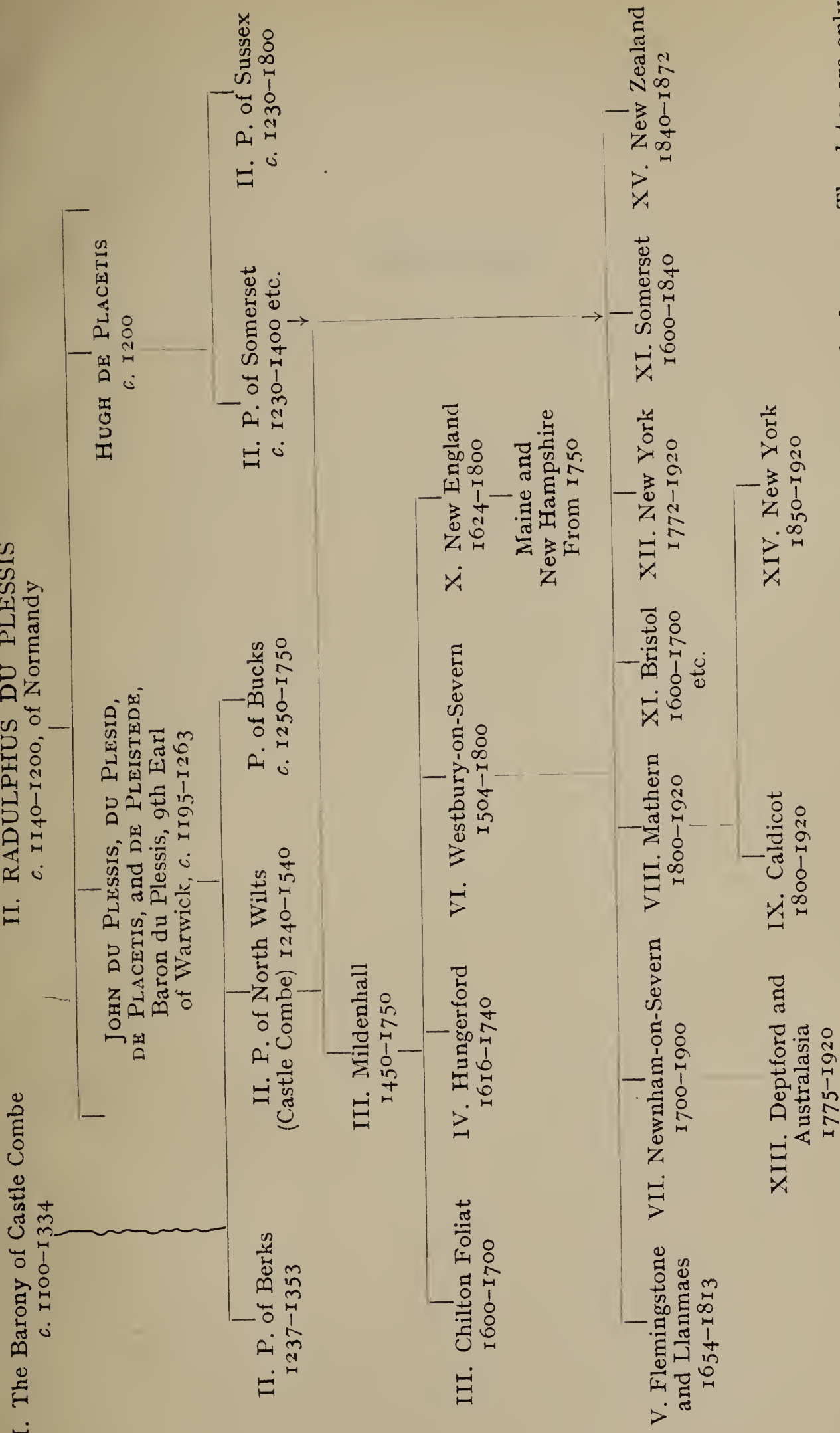
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NOTE.—*The distinction John I, John II, etc., is intended to identify only the principal individuals in the main succession, without regard to the fact that others of similar name in a parallel line may occasionally break the numerical sequence.*

THE FAMILY DISPERSION



Note.—This index gathers into a brief synopsis the family migrations of the past eight hundred years. The dates are only approximate. For more exact details reference should be made to the Tables of Descent, and to the family names in the preceding pages. The main dispersions are explained in the chapters forming the principal part of this volume. This information is supported by register extracts so far as that form of evidence has existed. The Tables of Descent are included in a gusset pocket at the end of the book.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX

FAMILY MARRIAGES: 1837-1874

England and Wales

UNTIL the General Registration Act of 1837 all births, marriages, and deaths were recorded only in the parishes where they occurred, but since that time the registration of these details for the whole country has been transferred to Somerset House, London. The transitional period between the old and new order presented many difficulties which were only settled in the process of time.

Occasional later insertions in the index at Somerset House suggest that the records were at first incompletely compiled. As an example of these shortcomings we cannot find at Somerset House the second marriage of Joseph of Crick Manor. The first fifty years of general registration in this country are still far from perfect, and readers will be well advised to search parochial records as well as the general register before concluding that thorough exploration has been made.

When the need arose to find certain marriages for the purpose of this book, we abstracted all Plaisted entries over a period of forty years, the results of which are given in the following table. The registration area gives the district and not the actual parish, but it is sufficient evidence for identification if anyone wishes to obtain a copy of a particular entry.

<i>Christian Name</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Registration Area</i>
Joseph . . .	1838	Ledbury
Herbert . . .	1839	Uckfield
Rachel . . .	1840	Pontypool
Hannah . . .	„	Newent
Frances . . .	„	Strand
Harriet . . .	„	„
Matilda . . .	1841	„
Edward . . .	1842	Tonbridge
Henry A. . .	„	London
Millicent . . .	1844	Pontypool
William . . .	1846	Abergavenny
Ann . . .	1847	Westbury
Mary . . .	„	Gloucester
Elizabeth . . .	„	Newport, Mon.

<i>Christian Name</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Registration Area</i>
Thomas . . .	1848	Merthyr Tydfil
Elizabeth . . .	"	Liverpool
Herbert . . .	"	Brighton
Phoebe . . .	"	Bermondsey
Elizth. Ann . . .	"	Islington
Harriet . . .	1849	Devizes
John . . .	"	Newent
Susan . . .	"	Pontypool
Elizabeth . . .	1850	Westbury
Caroline . . .	1851	Reading
Elizabeth . . .	"	Westbury
Ellen Buchanan . . .	"	"
Maria . . .	"	"
Henry John . . .	1854	Newent
Jane . . .	1855	Bristol
Job . . .	"	Hemel Hempstead
Thomas . . .	"	Westbury
James . . .	1857	"
Emily . . .	"	"
William . . .	"	Marylebone
Mary Ann . . .	1858	Greenwich
Emma . . .	"	Newport, Mon.
John . . .	"	Westbury
Margt. Davis . . .	1859	"
Martha . . .	"	Lambeth
Thomasina . . .	"	Ticehurst
Elizth. Jane . . .	1860	Bermondsey
Mary Ann . . .	"	Pontypool
Mary Wade . . .	"	"
Catherine Tyson . . .	1861	Devizes
Louisa . . .	"	St. James'
Susanna . . .	"	Newport, Mon.
Emmeline . . .	"	Camberwell
William . . .	1862	Westbury
William . . .	"	Westminster
Henry . . .	"	Marylebone
Eliza . . .	1863	Gloucester
John . . .	1864	Whitehaven
Sarah Amelia . . .	1865	Lambeth
Thomas . . .	"	Chepstow
Chas. John . . .	"	Hampstead
Matilda . . .	1866	Marylebone
Harriette E. . .	"	Edmonton
John H. (Plasted) . . .	"	Poplar
Thomas William . . .	"	West Ham
Mary Ann . . .	1867	St. George, Hanover Sq.
John . . .	1868	Strand

<i>Christian Name</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Registration Area</i>
Katherine . . .	1868	Camberwell
Ben . . .	„	West Ham
Emily Ross . . .	„	Hackney
Herbert . . .	1869	Kensington
Margaret . . .	„	Pontypool
William Nimrod . . .	„	Tunbridge
Harry . . .	„	Bromley
Mary . . .	„	Monmouth
Harriet . . .	„	Westbury
Richard . . .	1870	Pontypool
Henry . . .	„	Battle
Selwyn . . .	„	Clifton
Harriet . . .	„	Newport
Joseph Allen . . .	1871	Westbury
Caroline . . .	„	Gloucester
Caroline Mary . . .	1872	Westbury
Thomas Wilkes . . .	„	East Grinstead
Wilhelmina . . .	„	Pontypool
Reuben Henry . . .	1873	Newport, Mon.
Jane . . .	„	Chepstow
Richard Blick . . .	„	Kensington
Fanny . . .	„	Uckfield
Ellen (Pleasted) . . .	„	Wycombe
Clara Jane . . .	1874	Newport, Mon.
Martha . . .	„	Cardiff

PRÉCIS OF MISCELLANEOUS WILLS AND ADMINISTRATIONS,
1850-1930

Extracts from the Calendars of Wills and Administrations at Somerset House.

1858. *John Plaisted*, of 100, Collins Street East, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

Died : 4th May, 1858, at address named.

Effects : Under £450.

Administration Granted : At Principal Registry under certificate etc., to Thomas Wilkes Plaisted, of Woolwich, in Kent, wine Merchant.

1858. *Henry Plaisted*, of Deptford, Kent.

Died : 8th July, 1858 at River Park, Nr. Petworth, Sussex.

Effects : Under £100.

Administration Granted : by Henry Playsted of Deptford, Hop factor, son, and sole executor.

1862. *Joseph Plaisted*, of Crick, in the parish of Matherne, Co. Mon : farmer.

Died : 16th August, 1862 at Crick.

Effects : Under £800.

Administration Granted : At Llandaff on oath of Selwyn Plaisted of Crick, farmer ; and Joseph Allen Plaisted of Crick, farmer ; the sons and executors.

1865. *John Playstead*, of Newnham, Glos., gent.

Died : 14th March, 1865.

Effects : Under £2,000.

Administration Granted : at Gloucester by oath of John Playstead of Newnham, draper and grocer, the son one of the execrs.

1870. *James Plested*, of St. George in the East, Tobacconist.

Effects : Under £2,000.

Administration Granted : by Margaret Plested, widow.

1871. *Thomas Playsted*, of Brains Green, East Dean, Glos., yeoman.

Died : 15th November, 1871.

Effects : Under £100.

Administration Granted : to Henry Playsted of Blaize Bailey in township of East Dean, the son and one of the next of kin.

1876. *Emily Playsted*, of Wick House, Wadhurst, Co. Sussex, widow.

Died : 3rd March, 1876 at Reading Road, Henley-on-Thames, Co. Oxon.

Effects : Under £2,000. Admin. with will of the effects.

Administration Granted : At Principal Registry to Charles John Playsted of 1 Albion Villas, Wood Lane, Highgate, Co. Middlesex, the son and one of next of kin.

1876. *Francis Playsted* : of Cheltenham, Glos., widow.

Died : 13th August, 1876 at Cheltenham.

Effects : Under £100.

Administration Granted : to Eliz. Jane Vaughan of 35, Golborne Road, Westbourne Park, Middlesex, widow, the daughter and one of next of kin.

1877. *Henry Playsted*, of 61 St. Donnatts Road, New Cross, Co. Kent. Hop factor, widower.

Died : 24th August 1876 at above.

Effects : Under £100. Admin. of effects of Henry Playsted, late of above named address.

Administration Granted : to Mary Ann Langford (wife of John Langford, of Aylesford, Nr. Maidstone), daughter and only next of kin.

1877. *Joseph Playsted*, formerly of Ledbury, but late of Newtown in parish of Ledbury, Herefordshire.

Died : 6th May, 1877 at Newtown.

Effects : Under £800.

- Administration Granted* : At Hereford, by Edwina Playsted of Newtown, widow, the relict, the sole executor.
1879. *Alfred Playsted*, of Wadhurst, Co. Sussex, farmer, a widower.
Died : 21st October, 1877.
Effects : Personal effects under £50. 25th July, 1879.
 Admin. of personal estate.
Administration Granted : At Principal Registry to Elizth. Playsted, (wife of Henry Alfred Playsted) of Lodge Farm, Marks Cross, parish of Rotherfield, the daughter and next of kin.
1882. *Daniel Plaisted*, of Woolastone, Glos., gent.
Died : 3rd June, 1882.
Effects : Personal estate £79 5s. 0d. 10th July, 1882.
 The will with a codicil of above.
Administration Granted : At Gloucester by Thomas Griffiths of Chepstow, auctioneer, one of Exors.
1883. *Henry Alfred Playsted*, of 42 Upper Bedford Street, Brighton, but late of Preston, Co. Sussex, draper.
Died : 14th April, 1883 at Sussex County Lunatic Asylum.
Effects : Personal estate £459 9s. 6d. 11th May, 1883.
Administration Granted : At Lewes by Fanny Frances Playsted of Preston, widow, the relict.
1884. *Joseph Plaisted*, of Vincent Terrace, Blaenavon, Co. Monmouth, labourer.
Died : 17th March, 1884 at above address.
Effects : Personal estate £40. 19th May, 1884. Admn. of personal estate.
Administration Granted : At Llandaff to Elizabeth Plaisted, widow.
1886. *Herbert Playsted*, of 26 Hornton Street, Kensington, Middx.
Died : 14th January, 1886.
Effects : Personal estate £1,164. 5th March, 1886 admn. of personal estate.
Administration Granted : At Principal Registry to Emily Playsted of same address, widow.
1886. *Thomas Wilkes Plaisted*, of 202 Burrage Road, Plumstead, Co. Kent, Licensed Victualler.
Died : 4th February, 1886.
Effects : Personal estate £8,893 19s. Re-sworn Nov. 1886 £9,757 6s. 9d.
Administration Granted : At principal Registry by Thos. Robt. Richardson, of Hanover Road, Brookhill Park, Plumstead, and George Bishop of 131 Powis Street, Woolwich, Kent.

1887. *John Plaisted*, of Newnham, Glos., Draper and Grocer.
Died : 9th March, 1887 at Newnham.
Effects : Personal estate £2598 13s. 5d. 16th April, 1887.
Administration Granted : At Gloucester by Mary Plaisted, of Newnham, widow, relict.
1888. *Florence Busbridge Playsted*, wife of Walter Henry Robert Playsted, of 3 Southdown Terrace, Upperton Road, Eastbourne.
Died : 23rd December, 1887 at above address.
Effects : Personal estate £407 19s. 8d. 6th Feb., 1888. admn. of.
Administration Granted : At Lewes to the said W. H. R. Playsted, watchmaker.
1890. *Edwina Playsted*, of New Town, Ledbury, Herefordshire, widow.
Died : 23rd November, 1889.
Effects : Personal estate £789 14s. 7d. 9th Jan., 1890.
Administration Granted : At Hereford by Alfred Powell, of Wolverhampton, nephew.
1891. *James Playsted*, of Milland, Blakeney, Awre, Glos. Road Surveyor.
Died : 10th September, 1890 at Blakeney.
Effects : Personal estate £35. 24th June, 1891.
Administration Granted : by Emily Playsted, of Millend, widow, relict.
1893. *Henry Alfred Playstead*, of Jarvis Brook, Nr. Tunbridge Wells.
Died : 9th May, 1893.
Effects : £248 8s. 2d. Proved at London.
Administration Granted : To Elizth. Playstead, widow.
1899. *Mary Elizth. Playsted* of 194 53rd Street, Brooklyn, New York, America, spinster.
Died : 9th March, 1899.
Effects : £70.
Administration Granted : With Will to Maurice Frederic Carter, Solicitor, The Attorney, and Jas. Wood.
1900. *Henry John Playsted*, of Woodside House, Brains Green, Blakeney, Glos., beer retailer.
Died : 6th March, 1900.
Effects : £420 14s. 6d.
Administration Granted : At Gloucester to Hannah Maria Playsted, Widow.
1901. *Hannah Maria Playsted* of Brains Green, Blakeney, Glos.
Died : 18th March, 1901.
Effects : £30.
Administration Granted : to Arthur Henry Plaisted, Gardener.

1902. *Walter Henry Herbert Playsted*, of 19 Western Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex.
Died : 10th Jan., 1902 at Lewes.
Effects : £107 1s. 2d.
Administration Granted : To Annie Playsted, widow.
1902. *Elizabeth Playsted*, of Jarvis Brook, Sussex, widow.
Died : 14th Oct., 1902.
Effects : £100.
Administration Granted : To Fanny Orton and Eliz. Read, 1904.
1903. *Joseph Allen Plaisted*, of 55 Llanthewy Road, Newport, Mon.
Died : 5th July, 1903.
Effects : £271 12s. 10d.
Administration Granted : At Llandaff 4th Aug., to Jane White Plaisted, widow.
1903. *Charles John Playsted*, of Wick House, Wadhurst, Sussex.
Died : 14th Aug., 1903.
Effects : £112 5s. 4d.
Administration Granted : At London, to Frances Eliza Clara Playsted, widow.
1906. *John Plaisted*, of "Queen's Arms," 10 Narrow Weir, Bristol, Beer Retailer.
Died : 6th July, 1906 at Bristol Infirmary.
Effects : £25.
1909. *John Plaisted*, of 25 St. James' Square, Holland Park, W.
Died : 27th Sept., 1909.
Effects : £662 1s. 7d.
Administration Granted : To Ellen Jemima, widow.
1910. *Thomas Plaisted*, of Oldbury-on-Severn, Glos.
Died : 23rd Sept., 1910.
Effects : £95 1s. 6d.
Administration Granted : To Annie Plaisted, widow.
1915. *Elizabeth Playstead*, of the Cwmbran Gardens Hotel, Pontnewydd, Mon., widow.
Died : 26th Sept., 1915.
Effects : £186 9s. 0d.
1919. *James Philpotts Playstead*, of Newnham, Glos., grocer & Draper.
Died : 31st Aug., 1919.
Effects : £1,144 2s. 1d.
Administration Granted : To Ada Bertha Playstead, widow.
1923. *Alice Plaisted*, of 39a Valnay Street, Tooting, widow.
Died : 5th Nov., 1923 at 46 Ouseley Road, Balham.
Effects : £482 10s. 3d.
Administration Granted : To Jessica Julia Swift.

1925. *Frances Playsted*, of 3 Townsend Street, Cheltenham, widow.
Died : 13th Aug., 1876.
Effects : £61 8s. 5d.
Administration Granted : at London, 5th June, 1925 to Richard Blicke Playsted, wheelwright. (Former grant Dec. 1876.)
1928. *Sarah Plaisted*, of Linga Longa, School Lane, Herne, Kent, wife of Samuel Plaisted.
Died : 26th Dec., 1928.
Effects : £819 2s. 4d.
Administration Granted : To Samuel Plaisted, husband, Masonic tyler.

DUGDALE ON THE FAMILY PLESSETS

OF this family, the first I find mention of is John de Plessis, a domestic servant in the Court of H.3 and a Norman by birth. This John, having served the King in his Wars of Wales, 15 H.3 and in 18 and 19 H.3 been constituted Governor of the Castle at the Devizes in Com. Wilts, as also Warden of the Forest of Chippenham in that County, underwent the Sheriffs Office for the County of Oxford in 24 H.3 and in 26 H.3 (in consideration of Two hundred marks) obtained a Grant of the Wardship and Marriage of John Bisset ; and likewise of the Heirs of Nicholas Malesmaines.

Certain it is, that he stood in no small favour with that King ; for in 27 H.3 upon the death of John Mareschal, who had married Margery the Sister and sole Heir to Thomas Earl of Warwick, the King sent his Mandate to the Archbishop of York, the Bishop of Carleol, and William de Cantilupe, requiring them that they should earnestly perswade with her, to take this John de Plessis for her Husband ; withall concluding, that if John Mareschal, before his death, had not seisin of Warwick Castle, and those other Lands, which were of her inheritance ; that they should then retain the same Castle and Lands for his use, till she had performed what she ought to do, in respect of them ; but in case she were already possessed of them, then to take good security of her, that she should not contract matrimony with any, except she had the King's license.

Nay so much did he desire, that she should marry with this John, that upon Christmas-day the same year, being at Burdeaux in France by a special patent then bearing date, he granted to him the marriage of this Margery, in case he could get her good will ; and if not that, then he should have the fine due thereon.

Moreover by another Mandate, sent to the same Archbishop and William de Cantilupe, bearing date in March following,

reciting, That whereas divers Ladies of this Realm, neglecting to give such security, as in that case, by the Laws, they ought to do, had matched themselves without the King's consent, to the great prejudice and dishonour of himself and his Crown : to the intent therefore, that the like inconvenience, for the time to come might be avoided ; and forasmuch as she being Sister to the late Earl of Warwick, and one of the most Noble Ladies of this Realm ; as also possessed of a Castle of great strength, situate towards the Marches ; representing likewise that it would be very perilous should she take any person whatsoever for her husband, of whose fidelity he had not as great a confidence as of his own, commanded that they should forthwith take the Castle of Warwick, and what other lands of hers they themselves thought fit, as a pledge, over and above the ordinary security, due from her ; that she should not marry to any man alive without his special license, so that in case she should be so rash as to do otherwise, that Castle and Lands should be for ever totally forfeited to the Crown.

Whereupon it seems she gave satisfactory security ; for it appears that in June following she had livery of the Earldom of Warwick ; and before the end of that year, wedded this John de Plesset, who was a person in such esteem with the King that being a great part of the precedent year attending him in France, he received there a Horse from the Seneschal of Gascoin, of the Kings special gift prized at Thirty marks, which was no small value, compared with the rate of other things, about that time, a Quarter of Wheat being then at no more than Two shillings price. And in September following obtained a special discharge to the Barons of the Exchequer for that Hundred Pounds then due to the King out of the lands belonging to her (then his wife) for the Relief of her brother (the late Earl of Warwick) not till then satisfied ; as also of Two hundred Marks farther, due by the Earl her Brother to the King. And in August next ensuing, being well pleased with her for taking this husband, gave her three Bucks out of his Forest of Havering in Essex, she then bearing the title of Countess of Warwick, and Wife to John de Plessets. In 28 H.3 this John was made Constable of the Tower of London, but not by the Title of Earl of Warwick. Nor do I find that he had that appellation very suddenly, notwithstanding the King's precept to the Sheriff of Warwickshire, for Livery of the Ten pounds per annum unto him, *nomine Comitis*, as Thomas late Earl of Warwick used to receive ; which Precept bears date 26 April, 29 H.3. For in the Fine levied tres septim Hil. 31 H.3 betwixt this John then Plaintiff, and William Mauduit and Alice his wife, Deforciants, whereby the Mannors of Warwick, Niton, Wegenok, Sutton, Claverdon, Tanworth, and Brailes (in Com. War.) as also Cheddeworth and Lyndneie, in Com. Glouc. (all belonging to the Earldom of Warwick) were settled upon this

John, during his life, though he should have no issue by her, he is barely styled John de Plessets.

But afterwards I presume he took upon him the Title of Earl, by reason of a certain clause in that Fine, whereby the before-specified William Mauduit and Alice do, as much as in them lies, confer the same Earldom upon him for life ; being loath (as it seems) to use that Attribute, till he made such an agreement with the next Heir, that in case he over-lived the said Margery, his Countess, and had no issue by her, he should not lay it aside again. For in August following, (which is the first mention I find of him, after that Fine so levied) the King, in that License he granted to him, to cut down certain Oakes in the Forest of Dean, affords him the Title of the Earl of Warwick, which, after that time, upon all occasions he used.

As there had been extraordinary means used, in gaining this great Lady thus to marry with him, so there wanted not suspicion, that being such an Inheritrix, she had been strongly solicited by some, and wrought upon, to contract herself privately unto another. Therefore to make sure work with her estate, the King procured her to seal a Bond with a special Deed to boot, whereby she obliged herself that if it could justly be proved, that she had contracted marriage with any other, then all her Lands and Possessions should be forfeited.

Which advantage being so obtained, by his Letters Patents bearing date 18 Oct., 34 of his Reign, he granted to him all those Lands, to hold during his life, in Case any such Contract could be proved, whereupon a Divorce betwixt them might ensue. And in 34 H.3 gave him the custody of the Castle at the Devizes, in Com. Wilts with all the Lordships thereto belonging ; and likewise of the Forests of Melkesham and Chippenham ; out of which there being a Rent of Eighty pounds per annum reserved to the Crown, he had Twenty Five marks thereof yearly allowed to him, for the custody of that Castle.

In 35 H.3 he was constituted one of the Justicea Itinerant, to sit at the Tower of London, for hearing and determining such Pleas as concerned the City of London. And in 37 H.3 obtained from the King a special Release of the Wardship of Hugh his son and heir (by a former wife) in case he should die and leave him in minority. And shortly after that a Grant, that if the said Margery the Countess should die before him, without any issue of her body, that all those Lands and Tenements in Hogenarton, Katerinton, and Bradeham, Knights' Fees, Reliefs, &c. which formerly did belong to Henry d'Oilly her Uncle, should remain unto him, the said John, during his natural life.

In this 37th year of Hen. 3 he again attended the King into Gascoin ; but before his return from those parts, an unhappy disaster befell him ; For after Truce made there, and that he resolved to come for England, determining to pass through

Normandy (in regard he was the Countrey-man by birth) he obtained letters of safe conduct from the King of France, and with divers other Noble Persons, set forwards on his journey. In which, lodging at Pontes in Poitou, after all free and courteous entertainment outwardly shown to them, they were suddenly seized on by the Townsmen, and cast into prison. This was in 38 H.3. When or how he was released I find not.

Which ill-usage, with the great charges he underwent in that service of Gascoin, and the debt wherein he did put himself for making Prince Edward Knight, occasioned the King to direct his Letters patent unto all the Tenants of this Earl wherein, giving Testimony, that he did behave himself laudably and valiantly there, and had been oppressed with great expenses, and wearied with bodily toil, he did earnestly exhort and intreat them, that they would freely contribute such reasonable supply to him towards the payment of those debts, as that they might expect his Royal favour to themselves, when fit opportunity should be afforded. After which, upon his return to England, viz., in 39 H.3 he was again made Governor of the Castle at the Devizes. And in 42 H.3 joyned with the Earls of Glouc., Hereford, Albermarl, and others, in writing to Pope Alexander the Fourth, against Ethelmare the Kings half-brother, then Elect of Winchester, desiring His Holiness, that he might not be admitted to that Bishoprick, being a person bent to enrich himself by unjust means, and a disturber of the Kingdoms tranquility and welfare.

In this year also he received summons (with divers other great men) to repair to Chester on Munday next before the Feast of St. John Baptist, sufficiently accoutred with Horse and Arms, to attend the King in his Welsh Expedition, against Lewelin ap Griffith, and his complices. And in 44 H.3 had the like command to attend the King at Shrewsbury, on the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lady, thence to march with him again into Wales.

Moreover, the next ensuing year, he had summons to be at London, on the morrow after Simon and Judes Day, with Horse and Arms etc., which happened about the time that the dispute betwixt the King and his lofty-spirited Barons grew high; by reason whereof, having had sufficient experience of his fidelity, he had the Shrievalty of the Counties of Warwick and Leicester, with the Castle of Sauvey (in the confines of Leicestershire) committed to his trust. But he lived not to see the issue of those troubles, which growing on more and more every day, occasioned much bloudshed and misery to this realm; for in the month of February 47 H.3 he fell desperately sick, insomuch as the King, apprehending his death nor far off, out of the especial love and affection which he bore towards him, as the Patent imports, granted that the Executors of his Testament, whensoever he should die, might freely administer of his goods and chattels for the fulfilling thereof. Moreover, declaring, that as to such debts

which were due from him to the Crown, he would require them of his Heirs. Soon after which, viz., on the 26th day of the same month, departing this life, he was honourably buried in the Quire of Missenden Abbey in Com. Bucks being then seized of the Mannors of Okenarton, Kydelington and Bradeham, in Com. Oxon, which he held by Barony, viz., to find two Knights, with their four servants, in the King's Army, at his own proper costs, for the space of Forty days : Leaving issue Hugh de Plesssets his Son and Heir, by Christian a former Wife, Daughter and Heir to Hugh de Sanford, at that time Twenty-six years of age. Which Hugh, in April next ensuing, doing his Homage, had Livery of the Mannors of Okenarton, Kydelington and Stuttesdon in Com. Oxon. which were of her inheritance ; the two former being held of the King by Barony.

Of which Hugh I find, that in 37 H.3 (which was many years before his Father's death) upon the death of Joan, the widow of the said Hugh de Sanford, he had Livery of that purparty of those lands in Borton and Wittenham in Com. Berks by descent belonging to her, as one of the Daughters and Heirs to the same Hugh. And that in 48 H.3 (shortly after his Father's death) he paid an Hundred pounds for his relief, for those Mannors of Hokenarton and Kydelinton in Com. Oxon so held by Barony as aforesaid.

This Hugh took to Wife Isabel the third daughter of John de Riparis, Cousin and one of the Heirs to Philippa Basset, sometime Countess of Warwick ; and having been in that expedition made into scotland in 10 E.1 departed this life in 20 E.1 leaving issue Hugh his Son and Heir, Twenty-five years of age who then doing his Homage, had Livery of his Lands ; and in 25 E.1 had summons to Parliament amongst the Barons of this Realm. Moreover in 26 E.1 he was in the Scottish Wars. But all that I have farther seen of him, is, that for the purparty of her the said Isabel his wife, he had the Mannor of Hedindon, with the Hundred of Bolindon ; as also the Hundred lying without the Northgate of Oxford ; and that he passed them all unto King Edward I., in consideration of Two hundred pounds in money and the Mannor of Compton in Henmarsh, to hold during his life. For the performance of which agreement, he engaged his Lordships of Hodenarton, Cudelington, and Mussenden. For being no longer summoned to Parliament, and consequently not in the rank of a Baron. I shall not pursue the story of him any lower.

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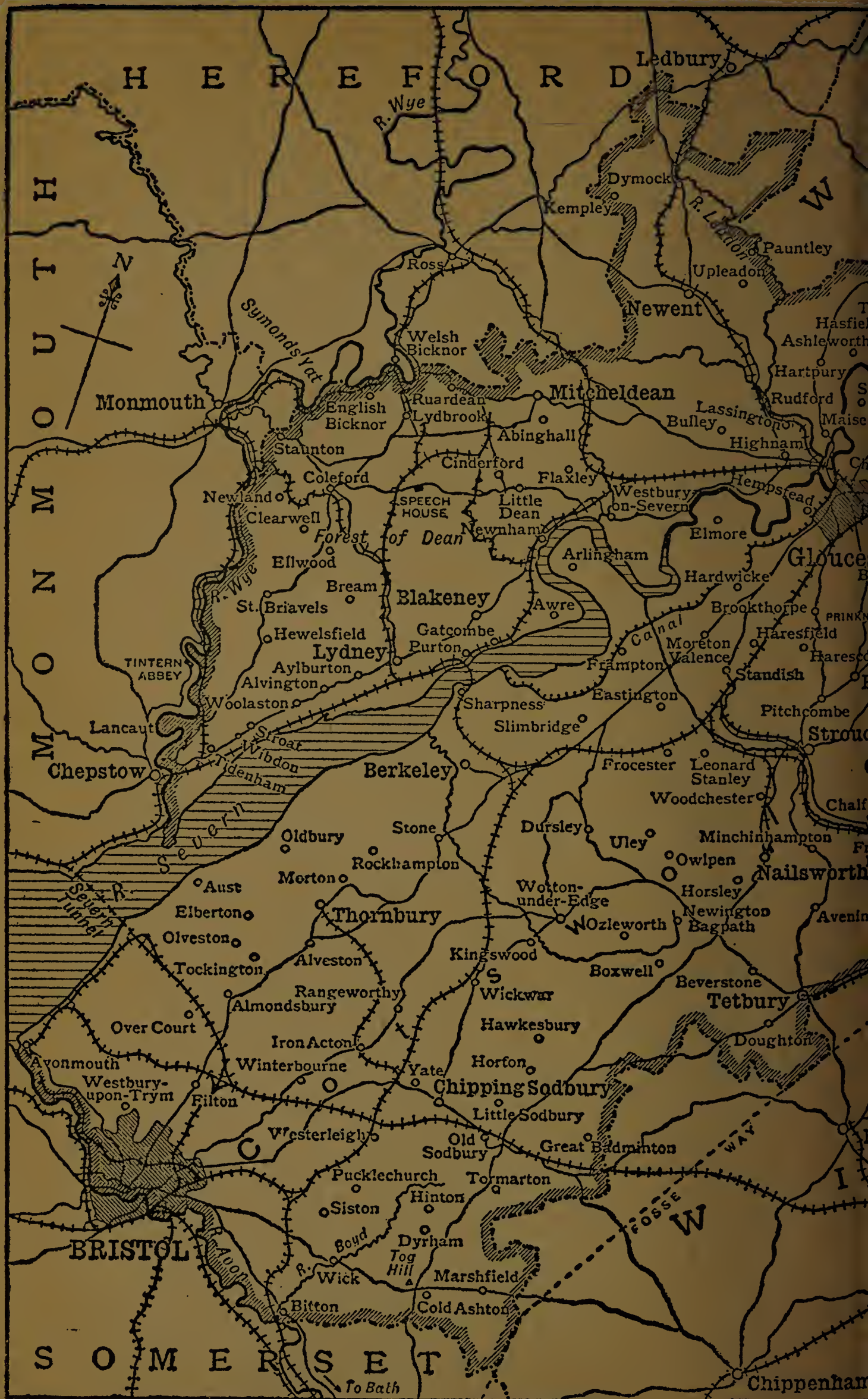
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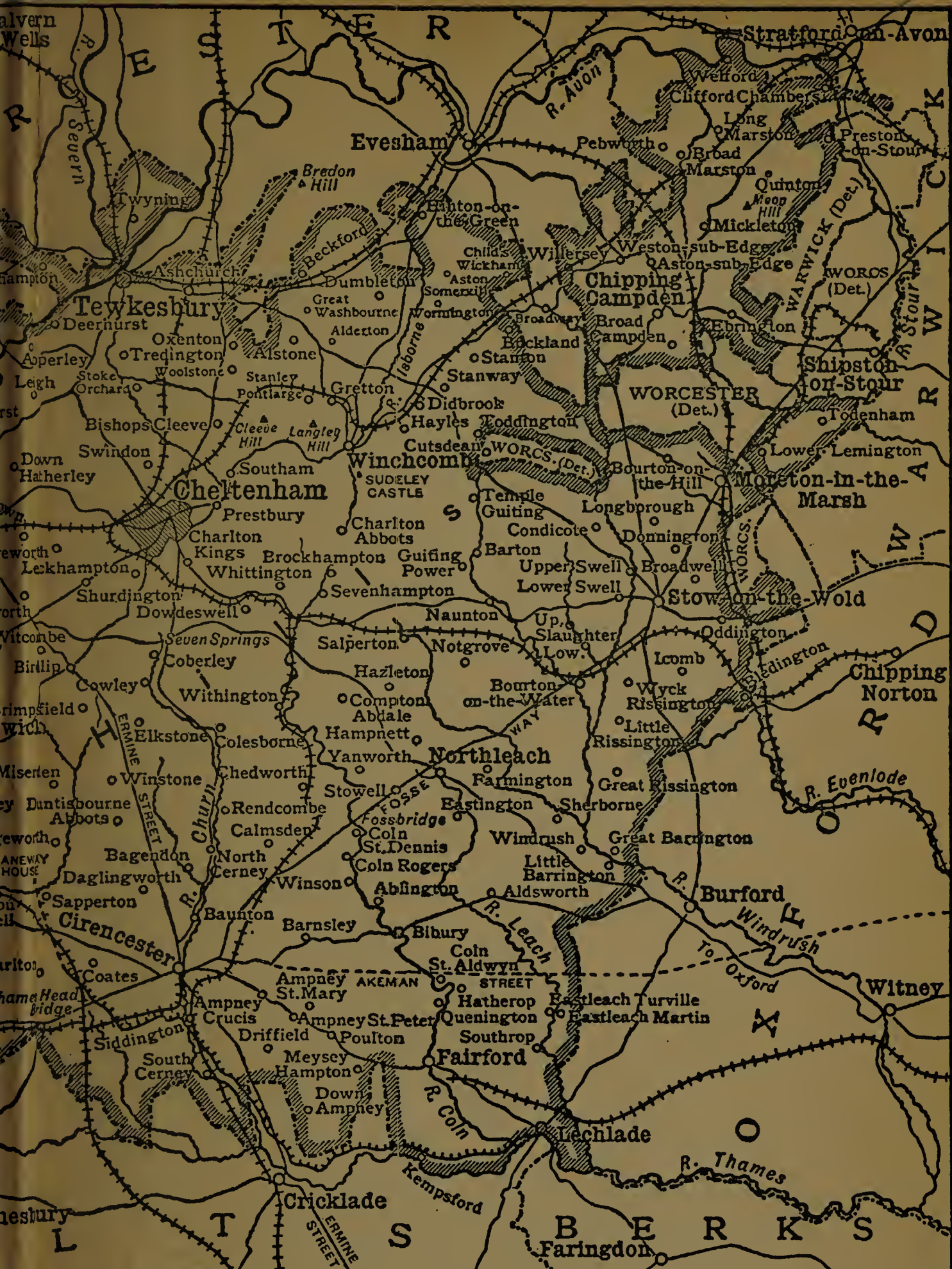
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FAMILY HISTORY





GLOUCESTERSHIRE

English Miles



Main Roads ——— Railways

Gc
929.2

M.L.

M.L.

Gc

M.L.

M.L.

Gc
929.2

M.L.

M.L.

Gc
929.2

M.L.

M.L.

Gc
929.2
P691p

M.L.

M.L.

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1426530

M.L.

GENEALOGY COLLECTION

1426530

COLLECTION

26530

Caottle Combe.

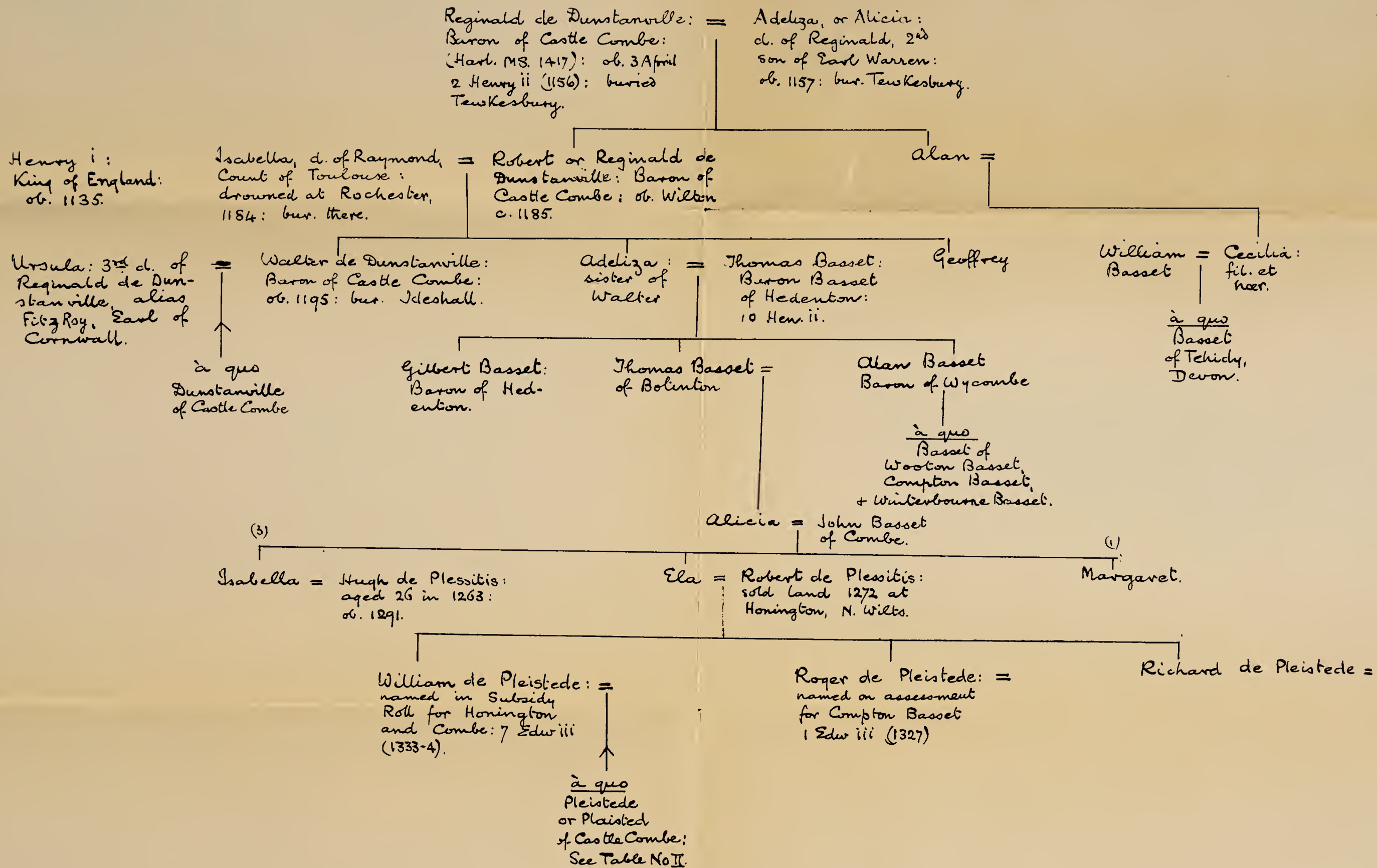
Table No. I.

Adeliza, or Alicia:
cl. of Reginald, 2nd
son of Earl Warren:
ob. 1157: bur. Tewkesbury.

Alan =

The Barony of Castle Combe.

Table No. I.



Compiled from Pedigree of de Dunstanville, Baron of Castle Combe: Scrope's "History of Castle Combe, p. 19: History of Wiltshire (Vol. III, pt. 5, p. 12) by Sir Richard Hoare: and other sources quoted in the text.

The Family du Plessis, de Plesid, de Placetis or de Pleistede.

Table No. II.

Arms of Plessis of Long Wittenham:
Argent, six annulets, gules.

Radulphus du Plessis, fl. 1180-95.
of Normandie (Mag. Rot. S. acc. Normandie).
William Seigneur du Plessis and de
Richelieu des Breux; de la Vernolière;
of Bitou in the Province of Aquitaine;
living in 1201 and 1213.

Peter: Seigneur du
Plessis in 1249.
Ancestor of Armand
Jean du Plessis duc
de Richelieu, Cardinal
of France, fl. 1585-1642.

(1) Christiana,
d. and heiress
of Hugh de
Sandford of
Hook Norton,
Oxon.

= John du Plessis of
Poitou: adopted
Sandford Arms:
Earl of Warwick:
d. Feb. 1263: bur.
Missenden Abbey,
Bucks. (In Testa
de Nevill named
as John Plesid).

= (2) Margery de
Neuburghe,
sister to
Thomas, Earl
of Warwick:
m. 1st to John
Mareschal,
who d. 1243:
she d. s.p.

Lawrence du Plessis:
accompanied Guy de
Lusignan, King of
Jerusalem () to
the Holy Land.

Hugh de Placetis I =
of Enfield, Middlesex.
William de Placetis =
or de Pleistrete:
owned Hawkridge,
Som. Buried there
4 Edw. I (1275-6)

Muriel de
Wrotham.

John de Placetis
à quo
Place of Wimborne,
St. Giles, Dorset.
Giles de Plays was
summoned (1293)
by Writ as Baron.

Richard
de Wrotham:
of Enfield
and Edmon-
ton, Middle-
sex.

Hugh de Plessis II:
born 1237: Held moiety
of Combe Bisset:
d. 1292: bur. Aney
Abbey.

= Isabella, d. of
John Bassot of
Combe, Chief
Forester of
England.

Robert de Plessis:
sold land 1272 at
Honington, N. Wilts.
See Table No. I.

= Ela, d. of
John Bassot
of Combe.

Beatrice = Alexander
de Amdeville.

Hugh de Plessis III:
aged 25 in 1291:
summoned to Parlia-
ment 1299: d. 1301:
esc. 29 Edw. I.

= Margaret
esc. 23
Edw. I
(1295-6).

John de Plessis
of Quainton,
Bucks.
a quo
Plaisted of
Quainton.

William de Pleistede =
fl. 1270-1340: named
in Subsidy Roll for
Honington and Castle
Combe 7 Edw. III,
(1333-4).

Roger de Pleistede: =
named in Subsidy
Roll for Compton
Basset, 1 Edw. III
(1327)

Richard de =
Pleistede:
named in
Subsidy Roll
for 1327:
witnessed
I.P.M. at
Steppel-
boughton,
1334.

Henry de =
Pleistede:
fl. 1275-1349:
of Castle
Combe

Alicia
c. 1295:
still living
in 1314.

William de Pleistede:
bestowed land at
Standon on
Glastonbury
Abbey: temp.
Edw. III.

Richard de
Barbra Flora:
later de
Pleysitis, or
de Placetis
of Newton:
marr: (1)
Madelene de
Clerby; (2)
Margaret of
Newton, Som.
d.s.p.

Four surviving
sisters were
heirs to
Richard.
à quo
Henry Playstead:
held land at
Lewes (F. of F.
1360): married
Margaret -

Hugh de Plecy IV:
under age in
Nomina Villarum
fl. c. 1296-1337.

= Millicent
whose 2nd
hus. was
Richard of
Stonleigh:
29 Edw. III
(1335-6).

Hugh de Plecy V:
fl. c. 1321-53.
d.s.p.

Elizabeth:
2nd hus. was
Roger de
Elmebrugge.

Eleanor:
m. John
de Lenneysey.

Richard P. fl. c. 1295-1374:
merchant of the Staple: in
1340 founded Chapel Plaisted
of Hazlebury: witnessed I.P.M.
at Chippenhams and Castle
Combe, 1367: named 1372
as having right to graze cattle
at C.C. Park. d. 1374.

Nicholas P.:
named in
Subsidy Roll
of Edward III
(1333-4) of
Yatton Keynell,
near C.C.

Thomas P.: = Matilda
fl. 1300-60:
in 1339-40
Bailiff of C.C.
named 1345
among Jurates
for C.C.

Thomas P.
fl. c. 1360-1420:
custodian of
Lewes Castle:
King's Bailiff
in the Rape of
Pevensey, Sussex.

= Isabella:
held a
moiety of
Ticckhurst,
Sussex.

Stephen.

Richard.

à quo
Plaisted
of Arlington
and Sussex.

John P. fl. c. 1320-90:
adm. to copyhold at
C.C.

William P.
fl. c. 1325-55:
ordained d.
and p. 1350
by Bishop of
Hereford.

Robert P.
fl. c. 1324-70:
named in Court
Roll for Honington
35 Edw. III (1362).

John P. fl. c. 1325-85:
ordained d. + p. 1350
by Bishop of Hereford:
Vicar of Acton Turville
near C.C. 1373.

John P. fl. c. 1355-1420:
witnessed Hamington
deed 15 Ric. II (1391)

Nicholas P.
fl. c. 1350-1415:
named among 19
Nomina Chivagii
of Castle Combe,
1394: probably
departed to
North Wrexall,
near C.C.

(2) Richard Haleway = Agnes P.
adm. 1420 to copyhold
of Pleisted's Mill
House (Colham;
d. c. 1450.
fl. c. 1380-1435:
named 1454
as tenant of
Yokeley, C.C.

= (1) Richard Cogeler:
named c. 1400
adm. to copyhold
of Pleistedes Mill.

John P. = Joan
fl. c. 1430-90:
of C.C.
in c. 1450.

Robert P. =
fl. c. 1450-1520:
of C.C. and
Mildenhall.

Thomas P.
fl. c. 1440-1500:
of C.C.

Nicholas P. =
fl. c. 1470-1540:
named 1535-6
among Jurates
for C.C.

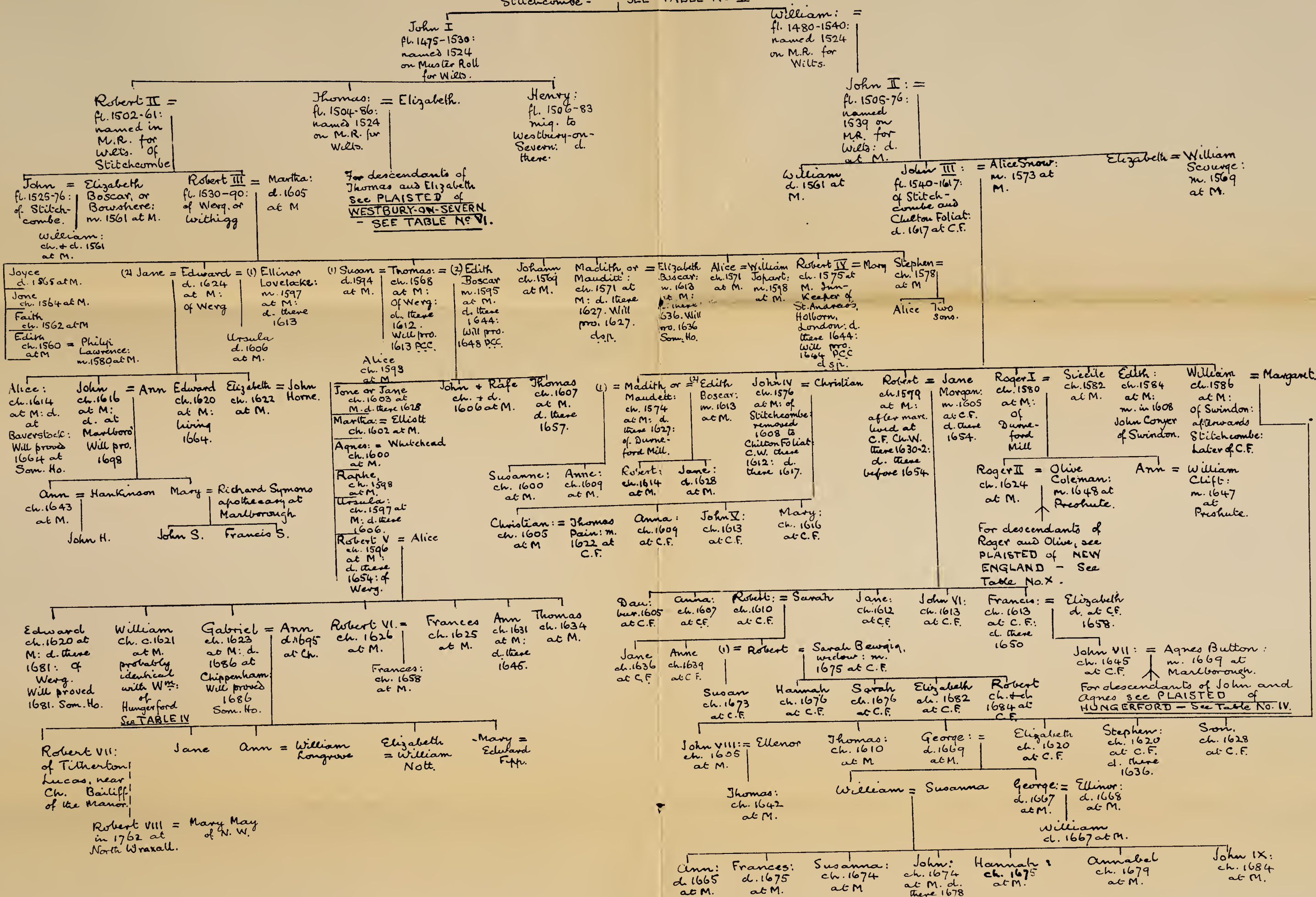
à quo Pleisted of
North Wrexall: e.g.
John P. named 1524
and 1538 on Muster
Roll.

For descendants of Robert - See PLAISTED
OF MILDENHALL AND CHILTON FOLIAT.
TABLE No. III.

TABLE No III.

Plaisted of Mildenhall and Chilton Foliat.

Robert Plaisted of Castlecombe and Mildenhall; fl. 1450-1520; adm. 1513 to copyhold of Mildenhall; miller of Stichecombe - SEE TABLE No II.



Compiled from the Parish Registers of Mildenhall (1560-1750), and Chilton Foliat (1530-1750); of Preskute, Marlborough, North Wrasall and Chippenham; from the Court Rolls of Mildenhall, Rodley, and Castle Combe; Subsidy and Muster Rolls for Wilts. The surname throughout is Plaisted, except when stated, or where the wife's name is unknown. The abbreviation 'ch' means christened; 'm' or = means married; the term 'fl.' is the approximate period of earlier lives.

TABLE No. IV.

PLAISTED OF HUNGERFORD (Berks).

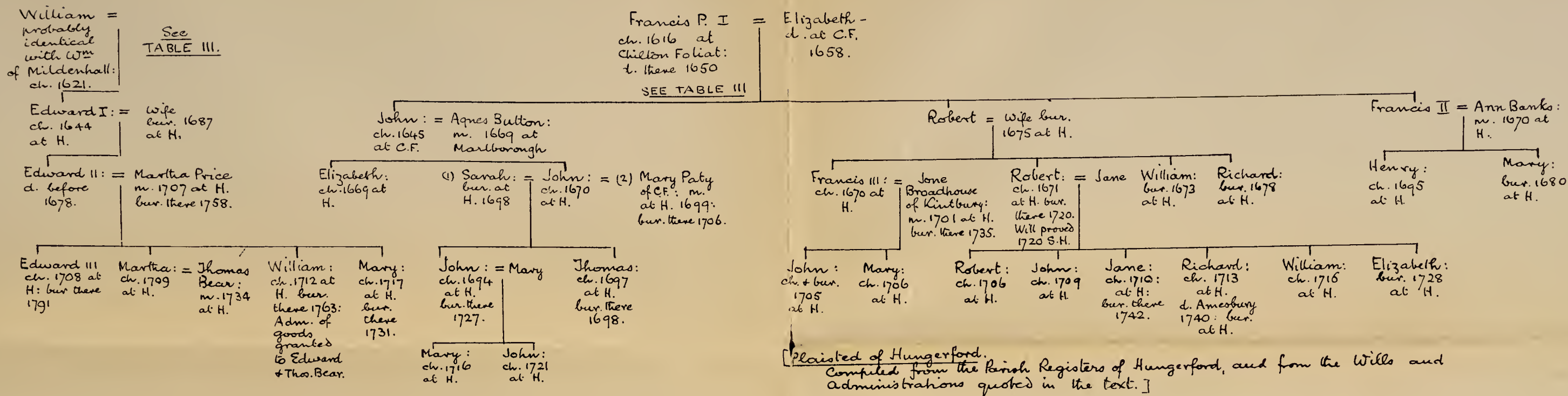
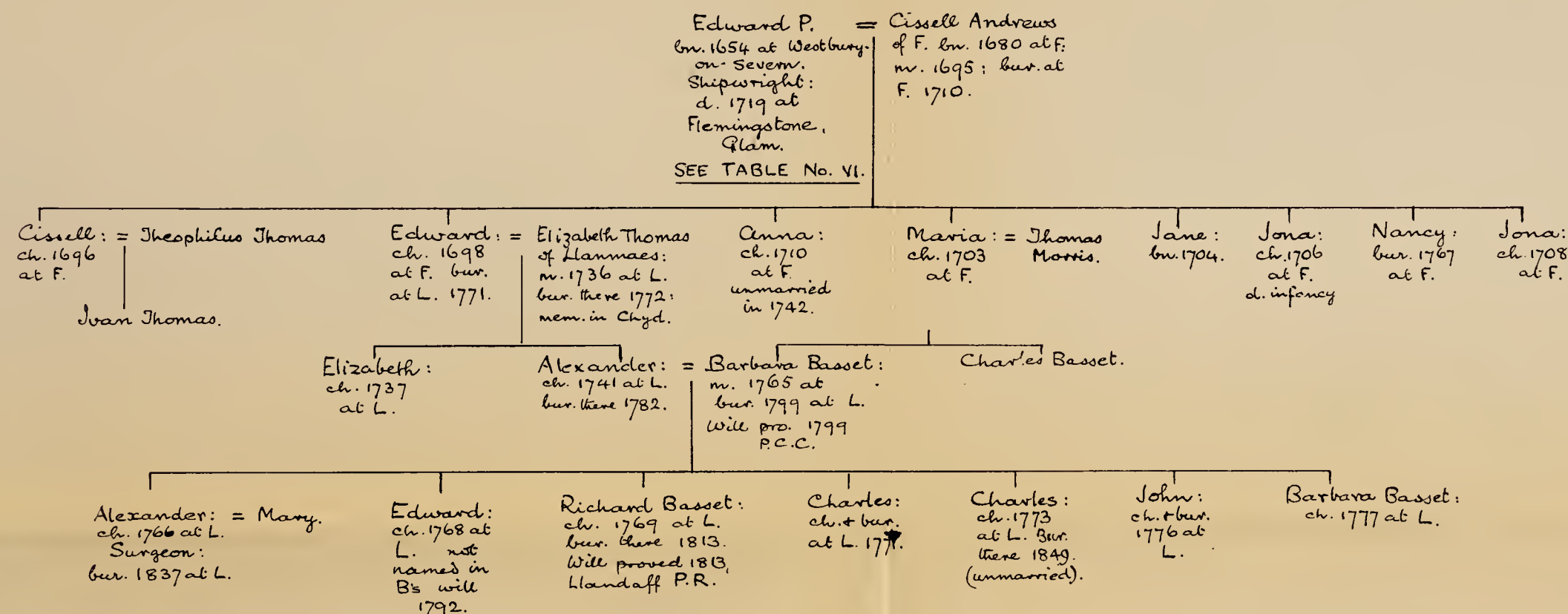


TABLE No. V.

PLAISTED OF FLEMINGSTONE AND LLANMAES, GLAMORGAN.



[Plaisted of Flemingstone etc.
Compiled from the Parish Registers of Flemingstone and Llanmaes, Glamorgan, the memorial inscriptions at Llanmaes and from the wills quoted in the text.]

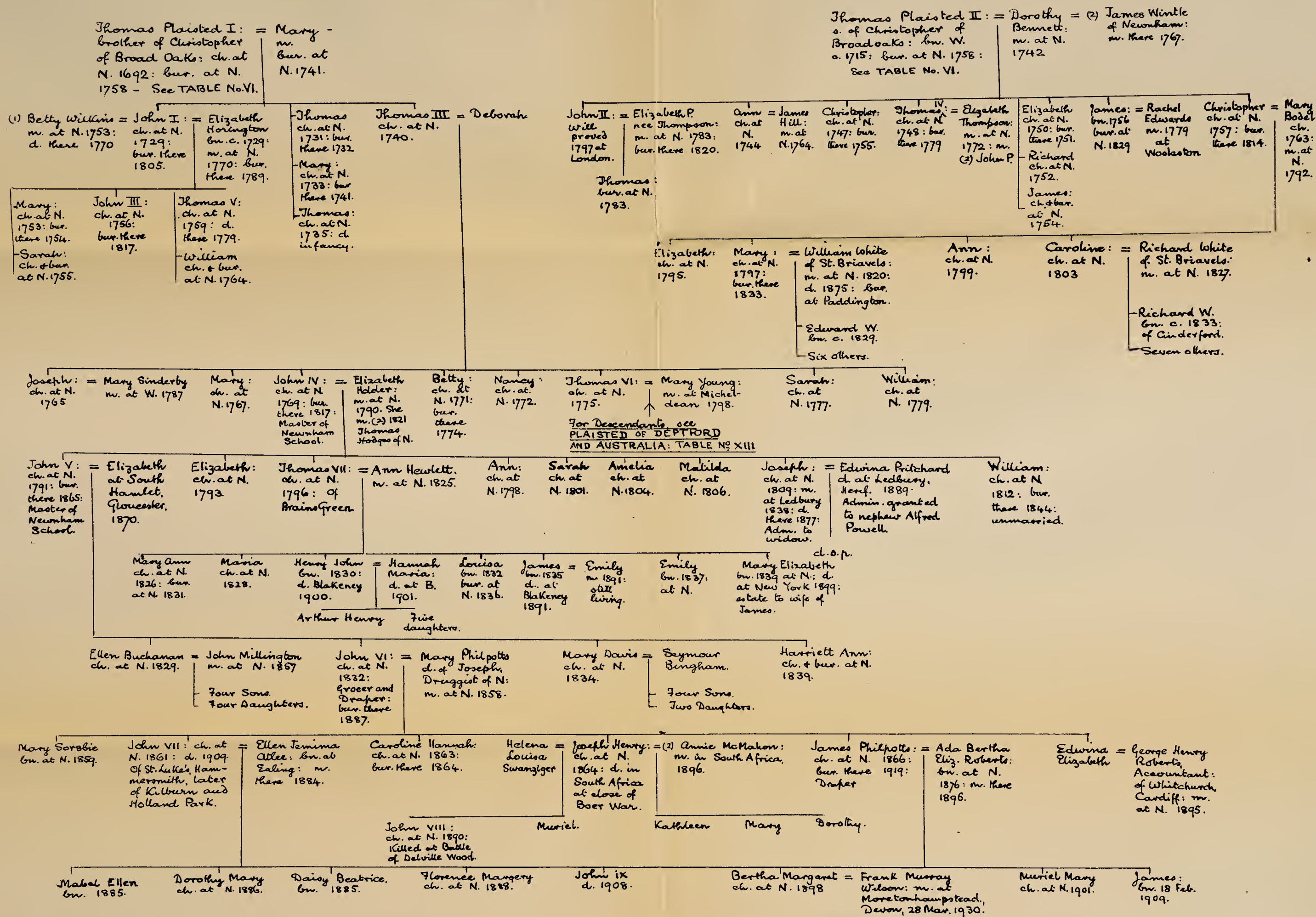
TABLE No. VI.

[illegible]

[Compiled from the Parish Registers of Westbury on Severn, Newnham and Caerwent: from the Court Rolls of Rodley: also Wills and Administrations in the Gloucester Probate Registry to. The surname is Plaisted throughout, except where stated, or where the wife's maiden name is unknown. The abbreviation 'ch' gives year of baptism, not necessarily birth. The exact dates are given in the register transcripts.

PLAISTED OF NEWNHAM-ON-SEVERN, GLOS.

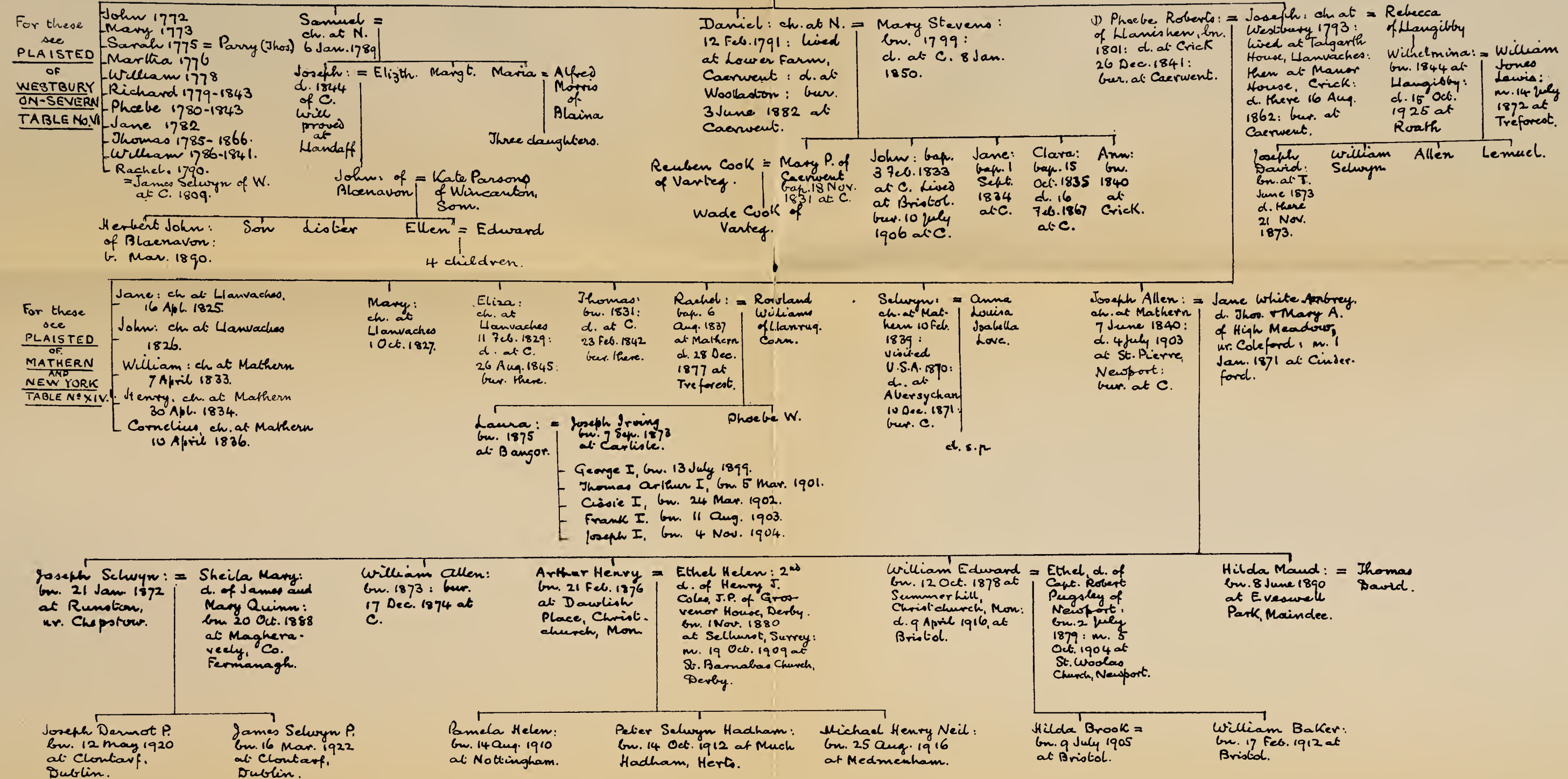
TABLE No. VII.



PLAISTED OF CRICK MANOR.

TABLE No VIII.

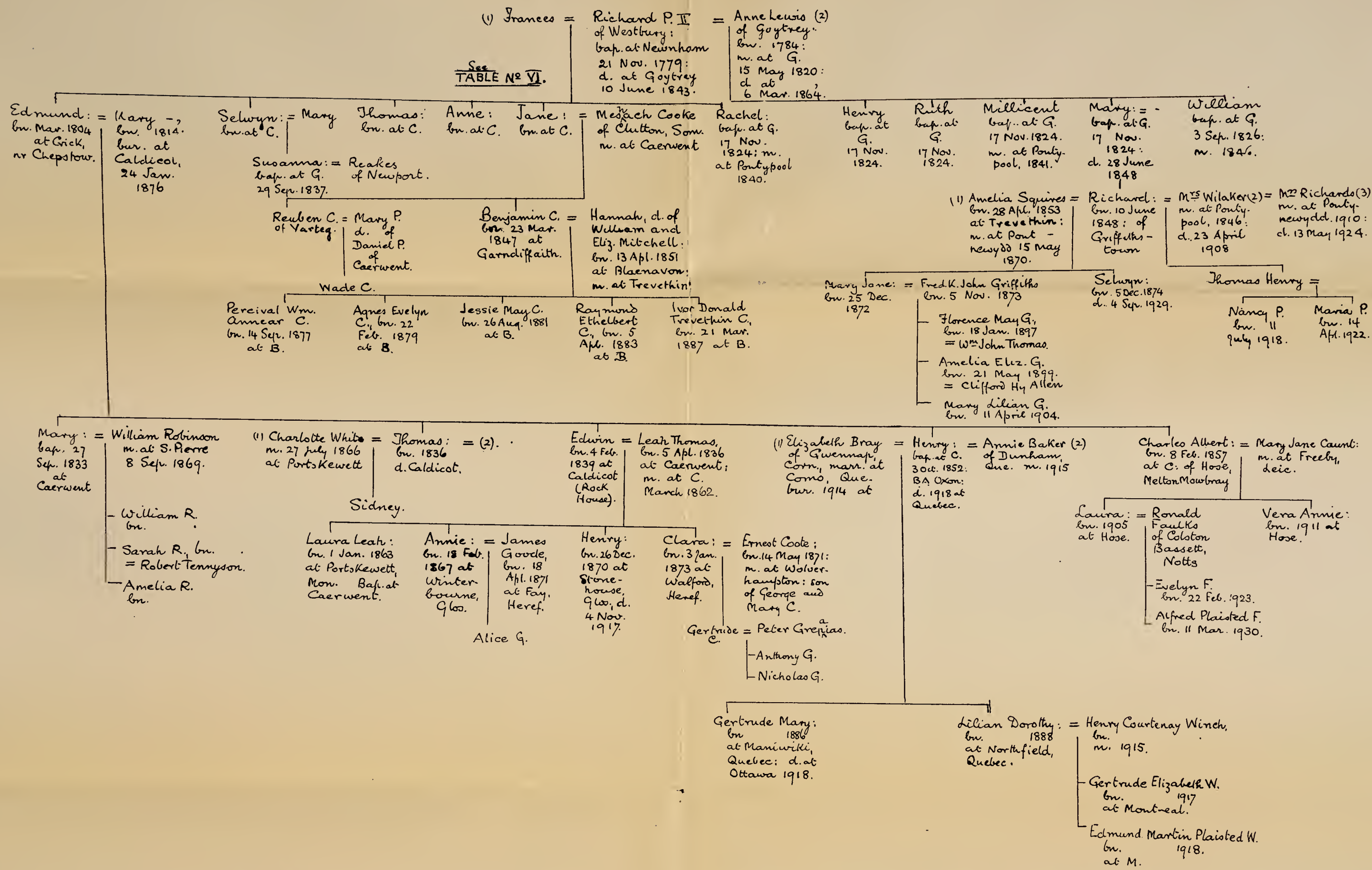
Richard P. I. ch. at = Rachel Selwyn
Westbury 9 Feb. 1745: of Newnham:
possessed copyhold at m. there 16 Oct.
W: d. at Caerwent: 1771: bur. at
bur. at W. 27 Nov. 1809: Caerwent 5
See TABLE No. VI. June 1837



Compiled from the Parish Registers of Westbury-on-Severn, Llanvaches, Mathern, Caerwent, and Caldicot, in Gloucestershire and Monmouthshire, and later information provided by surviving descendants. The surname throughout is Plaisted except when otherwise stated, or where the wife's maiden name is unknown. The abbreviation bn. means born; ch. means christened; m. or = means married; bur. means buried.

TABLE No. IX

PLAISTED OF CALDICOT.



[Compiled from the Parish Registers of Caldicot and Goytreys, Monmouthshire, and later information provided by surviving descendants. The surname throughout is Plaisted except when otherwise stated, or where the wife's maiden name is unknown. The abbreviation bn. means born, bap. means christened, m. or = means married, d. means died.]

PLAISTED OF MILDENHALL (WILTS) AND NEW ENGLAND.

TABLE NO. X.

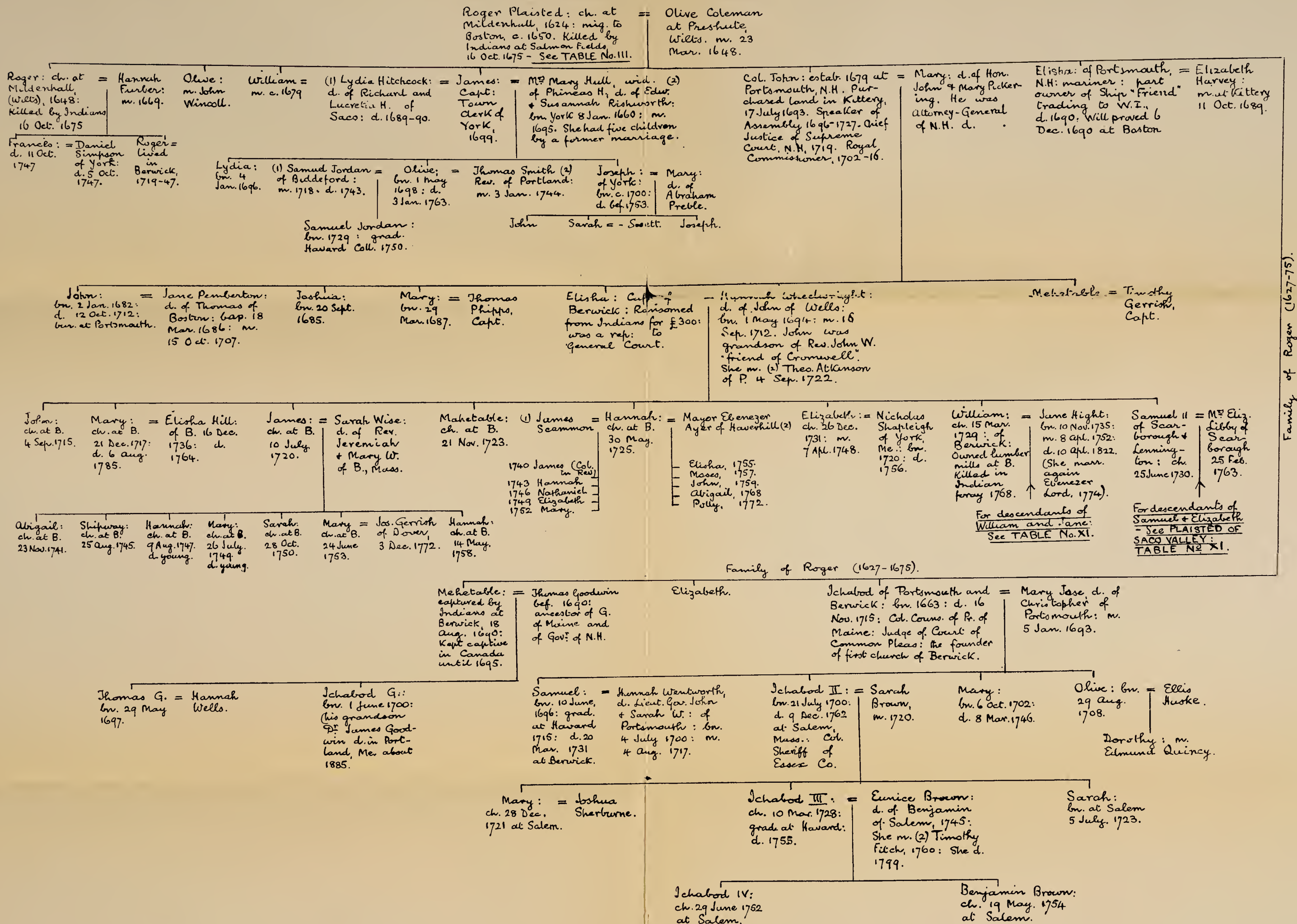
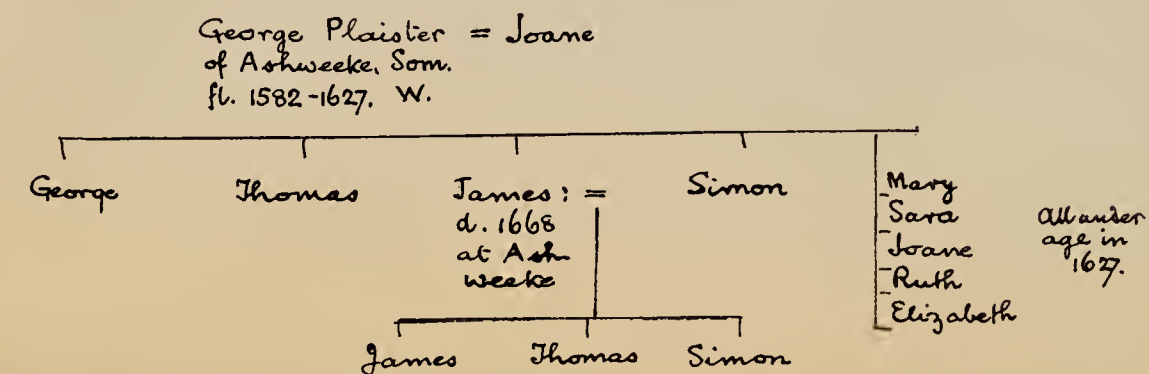
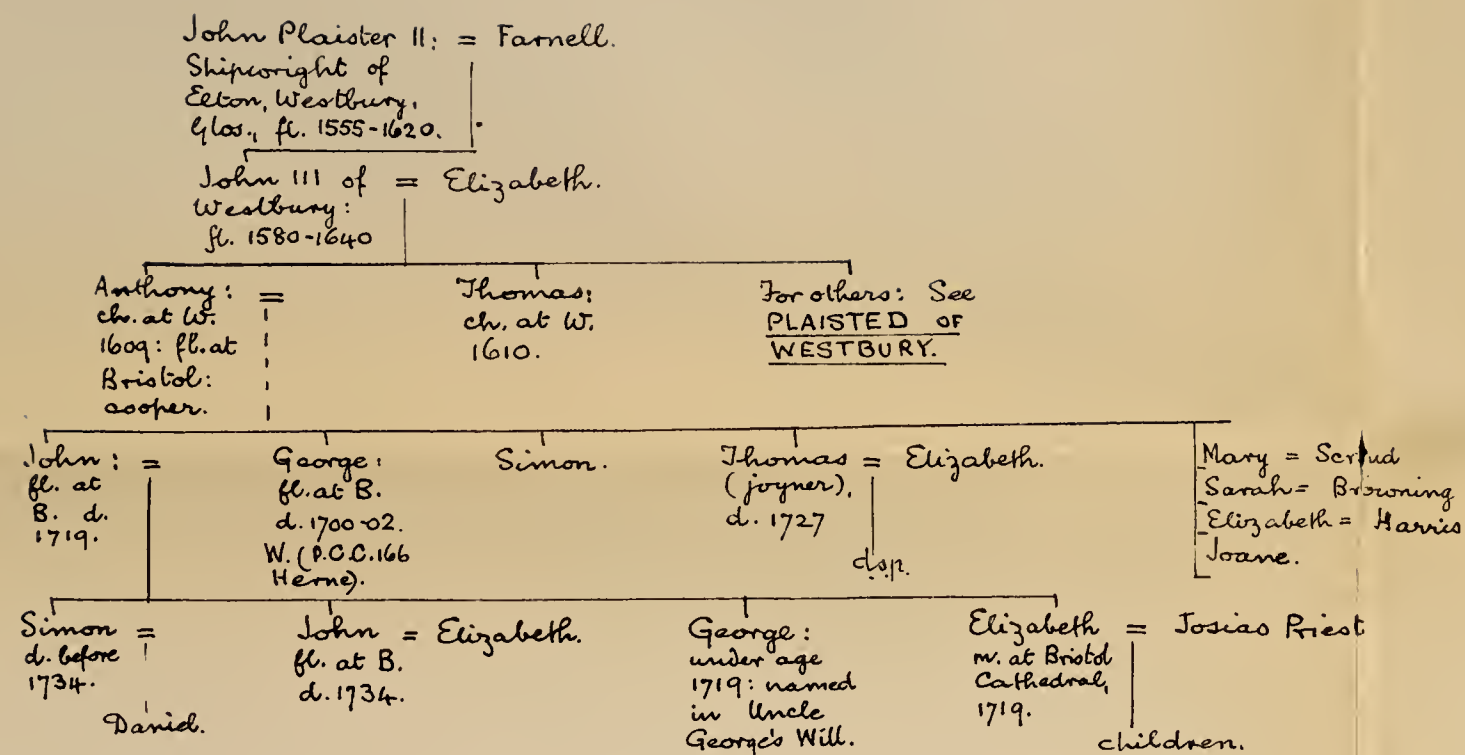
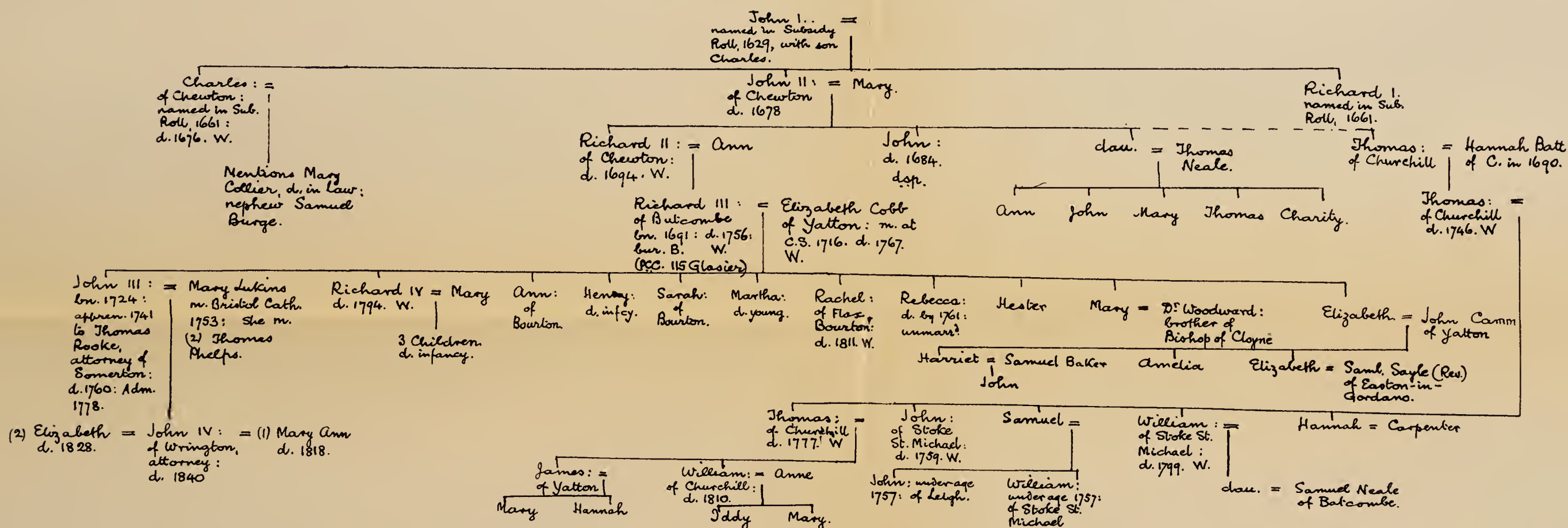


TABLE NO. XI

PLAISTER OF BRISTOL AND ASHWEEKE



PLAISTER OF CHEWTON AND WRINGTON.



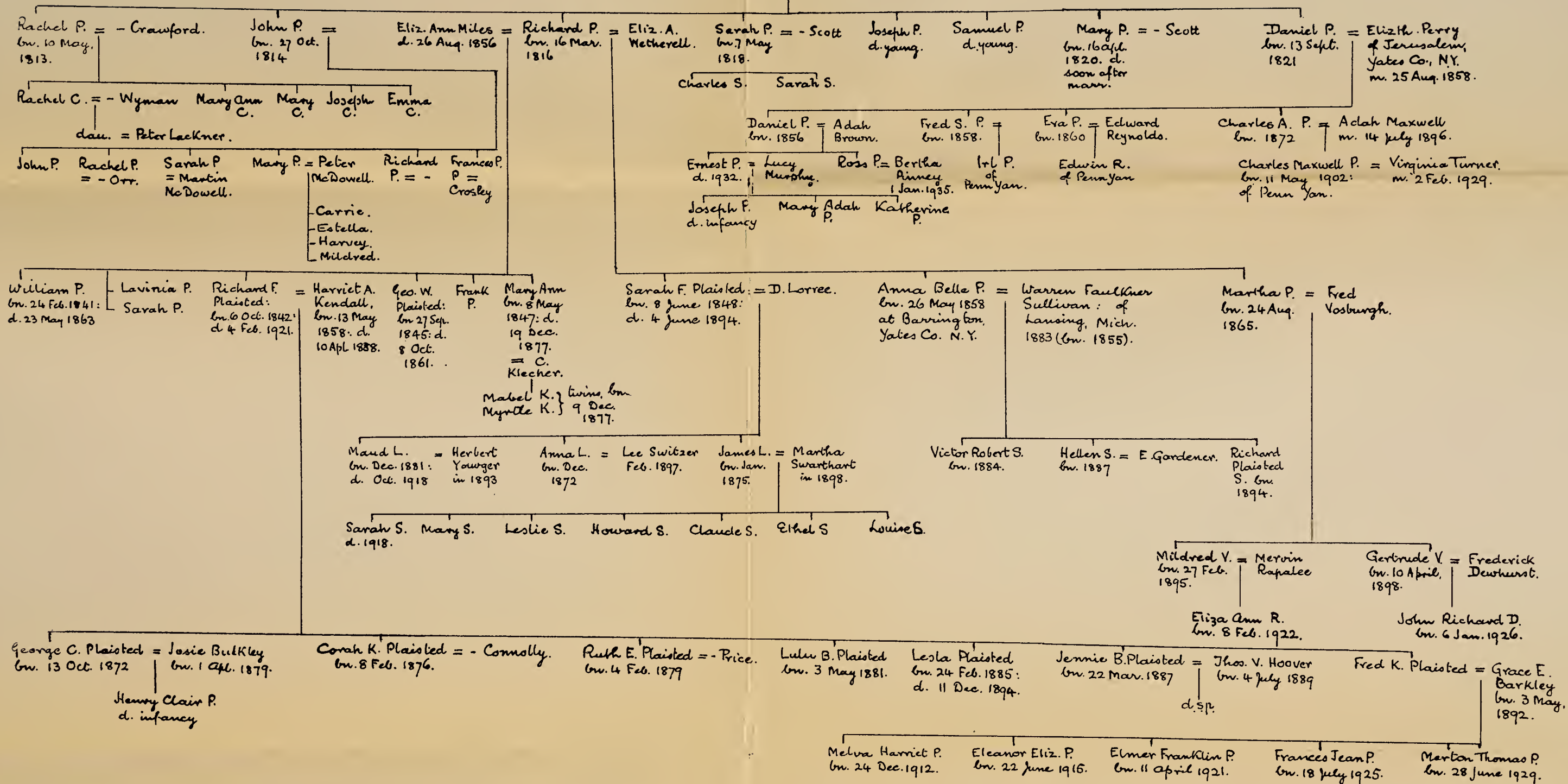
Compiled from the Parish Registers of Westbury-on-Severn, St. Mary Redcliffe Church and Bristol Cathedral. Also from the Wills and muniments of Somerset House and of Exeter Probate Registry. W. indicates that a synopsis of the will has been abstracted, and is reproduced.

PLAISTED OF WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN AND NEW YORK.

TABLE N° XII.

John Plaisted: Bap. 9 Feb. 1772 at
Westbury-on-Severn, Co. Gloucester,
England. Eldest son of Richard
and Rachel P. of Westbury, Glos.
and Crick Manor. - See
TABLE N°²⁵ VI and VIII.

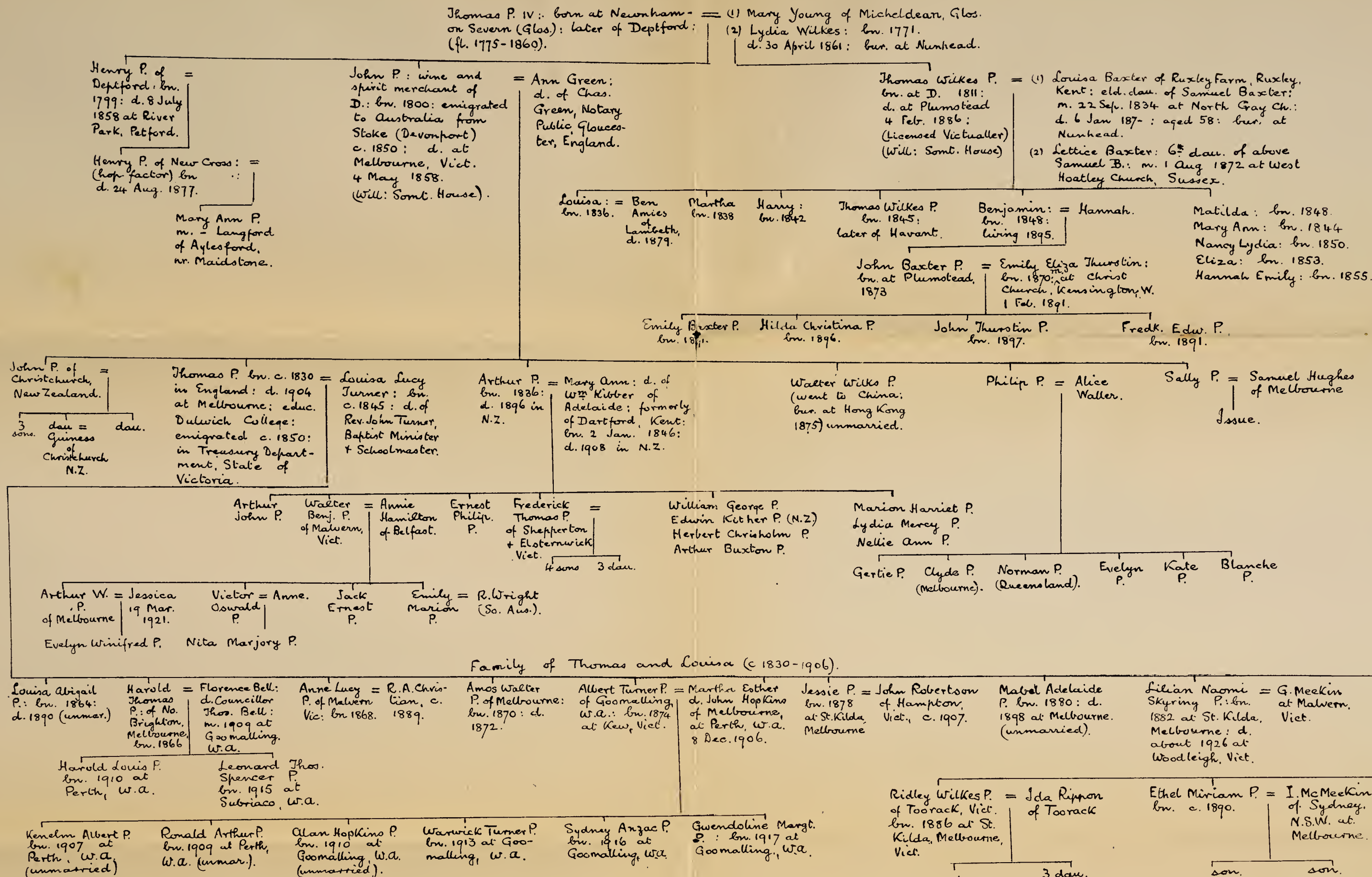
John Plaisted = Sarah -
Settled in N. H.



[Communicated by Martha Plaisted Vanburgh of Dundee, New York, on 25 Mar. 1931. The entries to 1935 are compiled from the Family Bible of John Plaisted the elder. Mrs. Warren F. Sullivan (née Anna Belle Plaisted) of 326 North Chestnut Street, Lansing, Mich. furnished the details of that family on 8 April, 1930.]

PLAISTED OF DEPTFORD AND AUSTRALASIA.

TABLE No XIII.

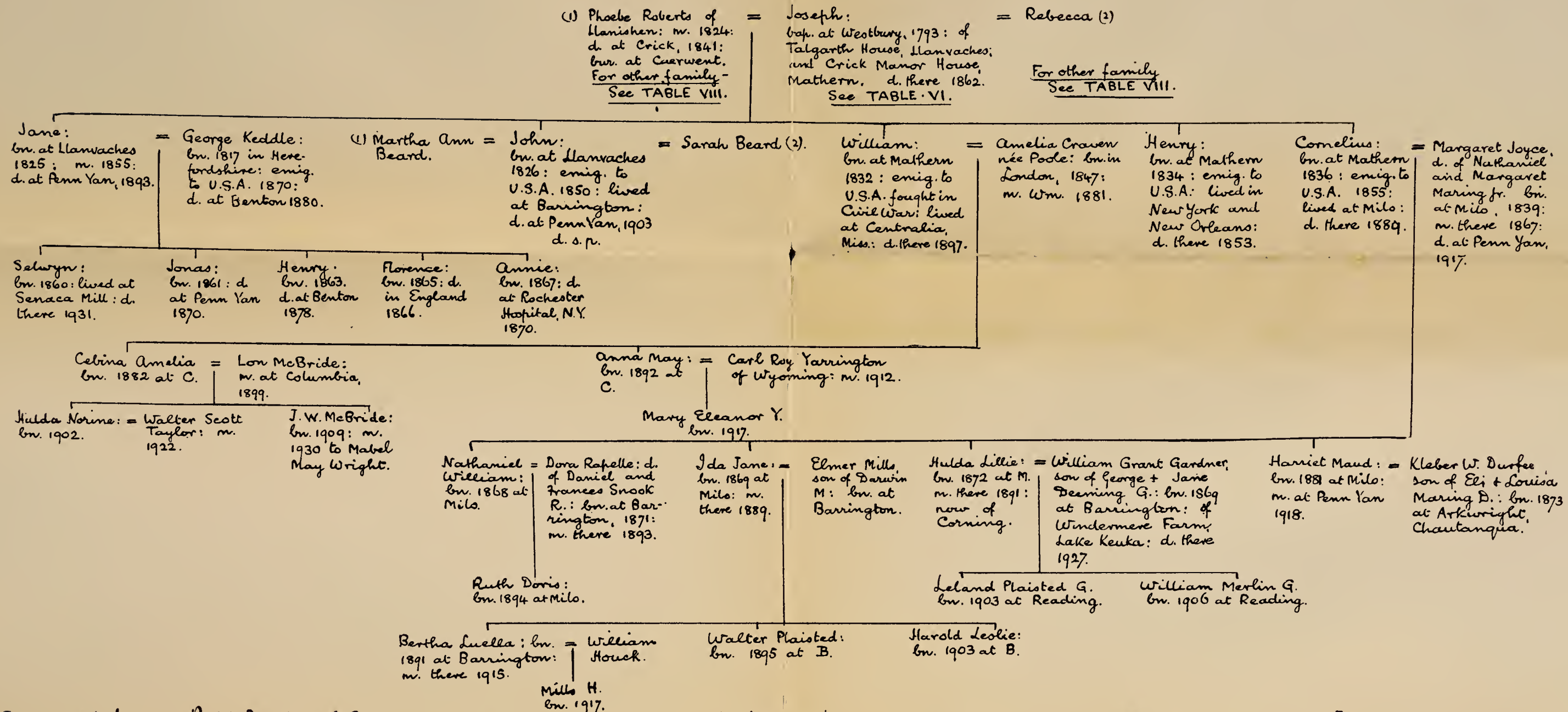


[Compiled from information supplied by:-

M^r A.T. Plaisted, Goomalling, Western Australia on 2 Jan. 1931.
M^r Harold T. Plaisted, Collins Street, Melbourne, Vict, on 21 Jan. 1931.
M^{rs} M^{rs} A.W. Plaisted, 5 Koojong Road, Hawthorn E2, Melbourne, Vict., on 19 Feb. 1931.
M^{rs} J.B. Plaisted, 29 Bonamy Street, St. James' Road, London, S.E.1, on 20 April, 1931.
M^{rs} F.T. Plaisted, 8 Elm Avenue, Elsternwick S.4, Victoria.]

PLAISTED OF MATHERN AND NEW YORK.

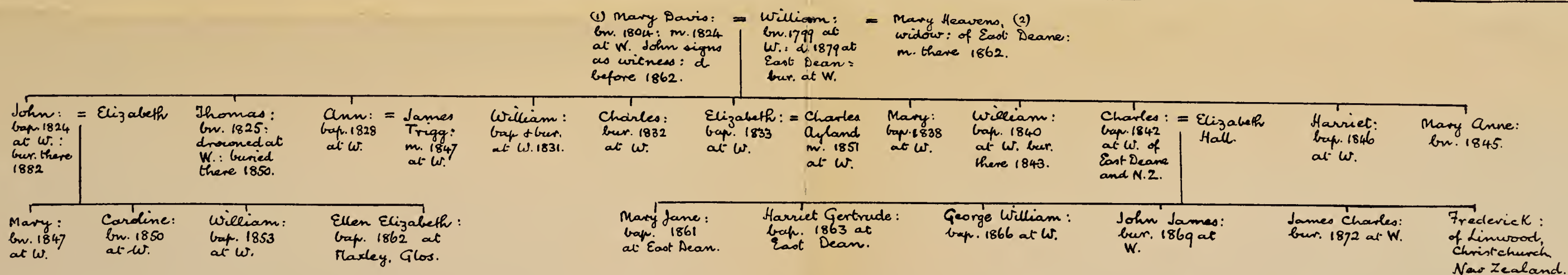
TABLE No XIV.



[Compiled from the Parish Registers of Caerwent, Llanvaches and Mathern: with information from those whose names are recorded in the text.]

PLAISTED OF WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN AND NEW ZEALAND.

TABLE No XV.



[Compiled from the Parish Registers of Westbury-on-Severn, East Dean and Flaxley, with information from those whose names are recorded in the text.]

